Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-94-150 *4 August 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Official Praises CIS Peacekeeping Role *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Latvian, Estonian Premiers Scorn Lithuanian Referendum *[BNS]* 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Aug 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russian, Belarus Presidents Hold First Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 3
Leaders Agree 'On All Questions' *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Chernomyrdin, Lukashenka Agree on Monetary Union *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Monetary Union 'Gradual Process' *[INTERFAX]* 5
Treaty With Belarus To Be Signed by Year's End *[INTERFAX]* 5
Kokoshin, Belarus Defense Official View Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
UN Envoy Demands Positive Answer From Bosnian Serbs *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 6
Opposition Group To Obstruct Excercises With U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 6
Government Says Plutonium Stolen From Another Country *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Russia To Send Two Platoons to Abkhazia *[INTERFAX]* 7
Troop Withdrawal From Latvia Completed 31 Jul *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 3 Aug]* 7
Troops in Estonia Remain 'Combat-Capable' *[IZVESTIYA 2 Aug]* 7
Russia Said Not Given Credit for International Aid *[IZVESTIYA 3 Aug]* 8
Russia, Kuwait To Conduct Military Exercises in Gulf *[INTERFAX]* 9
Company Declines Comment on Kuwaiti Arms Deal *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Iraqi Compliance Key to Lifting Sanctions *[INTERFAX]* 9
Facts, Conjecture on DPRK Nuke Program Cited *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 13 Jul]* 10

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin on Taxation, Defense Industry, Chechnya *[INTERFAX]* 13
Chernomyrdin Tells Companies To Solve Own Problems *[INTERFAX]* 13
Labor, Communists Hold Rally; Actions Planned *[ITAR-TASS]* 13

Economic Issues

MMM Lawyers Asks Government, Media To End 'Attack' *[INTERFAX]* 14
Developments in MMM Company Scandal *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Bomb Threat Reported at MMM Offices *[Moscow TV]* 15

Military & Space Issues

Military Gets 'World's Largest' Ground-Effect Vehicle *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 3 Aug]* 15
Airborne Assault Troops Clash With Militia *[Radio Rossii]* 15
Kosmos-2285 Satellite Equipment Operating Normally *[ITAR-TASS]* 15

Regional Affairs

Spokesman Says Chechen Authorities 'Control' Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Chechen Opposition Leader on Interim Council *[INTERFAX]* 16
Dudayev: No Intention of Quitting *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 7 Aug]* 16
Moscow Said Set To Oust Dudayev *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 3 Aug]* 17
Demand To Extradite Avtorkhanov Said Illegal *[INTERFAX]* 17
Shakhray: Chechens Should Determine Own Destiny *[ITAR-TASS]* 17

Shakhray Stresses Peaceful Solution in Chechenya *[INTERFAX]* 18
Presidential Adviser: No Threat of War in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
TASS Views Chechen Situation, Civil War Danger *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Conflict in Chechnya May Lead to Caucasian War *[INTERFAX]* 18
Ingush Leader Criticizes Russian Moves *[INTERFAX]* 19
Statement Demanded From Yeltsin on Chechnya *[IZVESTIYA 4 Aug]* 19
Dudayev Pledges 'All Necessary Steps' Against Aggression *[INTERFAX]* 20
Dudayev Says 'Permission' To Visit Moscow Withheld *[INTERFAX]* 20
Dudayev Must Be Ousted by 'Constitutional Means' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 Aug]* 20
Chechen Parliament Appeals For 'Dialogue' With Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Filatov Vows No Military Action in Chechnya *[Radio Rossii]* 21
'Signal From Moscow' Seen Encouraging Opposition *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 3 Aug]* 21
Chechens Said Ready To Take Up Arms Against Intervention *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 Aug]* 22
Two Opposition Regiments Formed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 4 Aug]* 23
N. Caucasus Leaders Blame Destablization on Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Chechen Official Challenges Reports on Decapitations *[Moscow Radio]* 23
Khasbulatov Urges Free Elections in Chechnya *[INTERFAX]* 23
Implications of Alleged Chechen SS-20's Eyed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 3 Aug]* 23
Russia, Bashkortostan Sign Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Treaty Recognizes Sovereignty *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 4 Aug]* 26
Yeltsin Comments on Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Yeltsin on 'Fine-Tuning' Federation Treaty *[Russian TV]* 27
Yeltsin's Tour of Siberia Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 3 Aug]* 28
Blast in Yekaterinburg Kills One *[INTERFAX]* 30

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma Plans To End Ukraine's 'Self-Isolation' *[INTERFAX]* 31
Moroz: Ukraine Poses No Threat To Stability *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Accord Signed With Russia on Border Cooperation *[UNIAN]* 31
Communique Issued After Parliamentary Talks With Russia *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 30 Jul]* 32
Germany To Help Resolve Unemployment Problems *[URYADOVYY KURYER 2 Aug]* 32

National Affairs

Kuchma Says Country May Face 'Collapse' in Autumn *[UNIAR]* 33
Kuchma Tours Rural Areas, Views Problems *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Promises Subsidies to Odessa Agro-Industry *[UNIAN]* 33
Kuchma Criticizes Parliamentary Resolution on Privatization *[INTERFAX]* 34
Kuchma Asks Security Services to Combat Economic Crime *[URYADOVYY KURYER 30 Jul]* 34
Joint Stock Company for Defense Conversion Formed *[UNIAN]* 35
Kuchma Disbands National TV, Radio Council *[INTERFAX]* 36
Chernobyl AES Generator Restored to Full Capacity *[UNIAN]* 36
Article Sees Increasing 'Moscow Mafia' Presence in Crimea *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 2 Aug]* 36

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

New Cabinet, Administration Structure Approved *[BELAPAN]* 37
Lukashenka Views Monetary Unification With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Comments on Debt Repayment *[Russian TV]* 37
Cautious Approach to Treaty With Russia Urged *[ZVYAZDA 30 Jul]* 37
Lukashenka Sees 'Leadership' as Key Need *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 3 Aug]* 38
Right-Wing Organizations Stage Rally in Minsk *[ZVYAZDA 30 Jul]* 39
People 'Pleased' With Bread Rationing *[Minsk Radio]* 39

Moldova

Lebed Comments on Possible Removal from Post *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Officers Threaten Rebellion Over Lebed Dismissal *[AFP]* 40

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Russia Asked To Continue Peace Efforts in Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Two Russian Border Guards Wounded in Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 41

Uzbekistan

Karimov Briefs UN Envoys on Afghan Problems *[INTERFAX]* 41
Karimov Meets With Diplomats, Journalists *[Tashkent Radio]* 41

CAUCASUS

Georgia

Ioselani Assails Abkhaz Atrocities Against Georgians *[Tbilisi Radio]* 42
Patrolling of Kodor Gorge To Begin 8 Aug *[Tbilisi Radio]* 42
Military, Irregulars Remain in Kodor Gorge *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Parliament To Discuss Shevardnadze's Dismissal *[INTERFAX]* 43
Party Leader Favors Change of President *[Moscow Radio]* 43

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Social Democrats Welcome Withdrawal Pact *[BNS]* 44
Centrists Say Paldiski Pact Not To Solve Troop Problem *[BNS]* 44
'More Young People' Request Russian Citizenship *[BNS]* 44

Latvia

UK's Hogg Salutes Riga's Foreign Policy Achievements *[Riga Radio]* 44
Birkavs Reviews Government's First Year *[Riga Radio]* 45
Unemployment Rate Increases to 6.5 Percent *[BNS]* 45
'Ransacking' of Russian Space Center Reported *[DIENA 23 Jul]* 45

Official Praises CIS Peacekeeping Role

LD0408103294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 4 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Agureyev]

[Text] United Nations 4 Aug (TASS)—The Commonwealth of Independent States contributes greatly to the peacekeeping process. CIS member-states proceed from the assumption that under current conditions of raging regional conflicts, the regional structures, including the CIS, should take the initiative in preventive diplomacy, mediation and other forms of peaceful setllement of disputes, CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korothchenya told a UN conference devoted to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organisations in maintaining peace.

The CIS focuses its efforts on peaceful, political and diplomatic methods to settle differences, Korotchenya said. However, the CIS does not rule out a deliberate operative use of joint peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth, strictly adequate to specific conditions and international law, the official noted.

According to Korotchenya, the CIS member-states would welcome a more active support by the world community of their efforts in settling crises and maintaining stability within the Commonwealth. The official believes the issue of creating a voluntary fund or several funds to support peacekeeping activities in the CIS is ripe.

Korotchenya's visit to New York has been paid in accordance with decisions made by recent CIS sessions of the heads of state and government.

The executive secretary has met deputies of the UN secretary-general Marrack Goulding and Kofi Annan to discuss cooperation between the United Nations and the CIS in peacekeeping activities and hand over the CIS charter for registration by the UN. During his meeting with the heads of the CIS diplomatic representations in the United Nations, Korotchenya informed them of the results of the discussions.

Latvian, Estonian Premiers Scorn Lithuanian Referendum

WS0308124294 Tallinn BNS in English 1154 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] VILNIUS, Aug 03, BNS—The prime ministers of Latvia and Estonia have spoken disapprovingly of the law "On Illegal Privatization and Compensation for People's Savings" which is due to be put to popular vote in a nation-wide referendum in Lithuania on August 27.

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs told a news conference in Vilnius Tuesday that if the law initiated by the Lithuanian Conservative Party of the right-wing opposition is approved by the nation it will "affect Lithuania," adding that "it is an unsuitable measure to solve economic problems."

Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar who said at the same briefing that, if adopted, the principles of the draft law "will have very negative consequences for the Lithuanian economy."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Aug

LD0408061394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0515 GMT 4 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 4—The situation in Chechnya is the principal topic in the Thursday editions of Moscow-based newspapers.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent took a telephone interview from Ruslan Matiyev, chief of staff of the provisinal council of the Chechen Republic, who commented as follows on the situation in Groznyy in view of the issue of a "political declaration" and a "decree on power" by the council:

"The atmosphere in Groznyy is outwardly calm. We do not plan and do not intend to launch any combat actions. The Dudayev regime should be removed by peaceful, constitutional means".

Matiyev voiced hope for the "absolute" attainment of the goals proclaimed in the documents of the provisional council which declared the Dudayev dictatorship deposed.

The newspaper's news analyst Lyudmila Beldyugina believes that now that Moscow-Groznyy relations have been exacerbated to the utmost, "it is hardly reasonable to write off militant statements by Dzhokhar Dudayev and his entourage or view them as empty threats".

"Although Dudayev's counting on 'the entire Chechen people' is set too high, together with his militants and devoted entourage he is capable of opening 'taps of blood' provided there is a real threat of his removal", the analyst pointed out.

TRUD notes that "invariably firm is the position of yet another political force—the Chechen popular trust government, headed by Yaragi Mamodayev—which is in opposition to Dudayev: It is possible to resolve the Chechen problem only provided there is accord inside the republic and through an urgent convocation of a national congress. This position now finds an increasing number of supporters".

TRUD reports that "a Russian Defence Ministry spokesman denied reports by the Chechen Press news agency which, referring to the main headquarters of Chechen Armed Forces, asserted that officers from the Frunze military academy have been transferred to the

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North Caucasus and that motorized units of the Russian regular army are being moved closer to Chechen borders".

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (NEW DAILY NEWSPAPER) writes that "Colonel-General Yevgeny Podkolzin, commander of Russian airborne forces, denied information that an airborne brigade stationed near Stavropol and an airborne division in Novorossiisk have been alerted in view of the aggravated situation in the Chechen Republic. Podkolzin said the command of those units had been warned about possible provocative actions on the part of Chechnya".

IZVESTIYA believes that "the problem of Chechnya and the entire Caucasus does exist but under the present circumstances a decision to resolve it by force would be fraught with tragic consequenses for Russia and contiguous countries. The emergence a 'Second Balkans' would close the huge (?acre) of conflicts along southeastern borders and would augment numerous threats to universal security".

PRAVDA, referring to local analysts, points out that "it is extremely difficult to predict a situation. Apprehensions are being expressed that restraint may let down Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and he would conceive an intention to restore order by force in the republic's Nadterechny (above-Terek) district where the provisional council is located. The probability of provocations against the Russian-speaking population, against Cossacks in particular, is also high.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) observes as follows: "Moscow's stand is utterly clear: it is essential to get out of the crisis without blood-letting. For the sake of that it is prepared not only to act resolutely but also to cooperate with all those in Chechnya who share a similar approach".

PRAVDA runs a statement by the Armenian Democratic Party which said as follows: "Up to this date Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has not made an adequate estimate of the situation and has not instructed the prosecutor-general to inquire into accusations about billions-worth public and state property embezzlements which loosen the foundation of the state and discredit the very idea of statehood.

"Moreover, unaccountable is the Armenian president's and the prosecutor-general's indifferent attitude to unprecedented crimes being perpatrated by officials, the crimes which have been exposed by the special commission of the Armenian parliament. This suggests the idea that the Armenian leaders have nothing to say to justify their conduct and uphold their own honour," the Armenian Democratic Party statement said.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on an anti-corruption drive in Ukraine:

"Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has delivered the first blow against corruption in top echelons of power. The office of the Ukrainian prosecutor-general has instituted criminal proceedings against former Premier Yefim Zvyagilskiy. The main charge is the sale of 100,000 tonnes of aircraft fuel from the country's state reserve stocks to the Greek firm Rim Ukvar Petroleum Ltd. The fuel was sold at obviously understated prices. As a result, Ukraine was short of five million U.S. dollars."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on Russia's defence capacity:

"As a result of the implementation of the Topol and Topol-m programmes and comliance with the strategic arms limitation treaties, the ICBM capability of Russia and the United States will become approximately equivalent, which in a broader context would signify America's nuclear superiority...

"Dangerous is something else, namely, that in the process of continious and rapid upgrading of means of warfare, the United States and, in prospect, countries which are less remote from Russia, would be able to achieve a qualitative spurt in the development of new weapon systems which would change the correlation of forces and would do away with the restraining uncertainty about the outcome of a large-scale conflict".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article by Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, commander-in-chief of Russian frontier forces, who points out that: "the limited nature of the federal border service's resources, which are confined to the border troops' zone of responsibility, is now one of serious obstacles to our work. We are unable to monitor intentions and movements of 'illegals' about the territory of Russia. We can spot them, at best, during their 'entry' and 'exit'".

The new daily newspaper runs an interview with Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray, leader of the commission for preparing treaties on the delimitation of jurisdiction and powers between federal and regional state power bodies of the Russian Federation.

"Unfortunately, life does not always follow the prescribed course. There are situations when a temporary malfunction of technology results in lesser losses than a delay in a solution to a problem...

"I hope that the setting up of the treaties-drafting commission to the Russian president will help maintain the balance which will finally ensure the building of genuine federalism in Russia".

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Russian, Belarus Presidents Hold First Meeting

LD0308172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Russian head of state Boris Yeltsin had his first meeting with the Belarussian [Belarusian] President Aleksandr Lukashenko in Kremlin on Wednesday.

Immediately after the talks Yeltsin told the press that the meeting took place in a businesslike and constructive spirit.

In his opinion it indicated that there are strong links and very good relations between the two nations and they should be developed. "We agreed on a system of permanent contacts with the Belarussian president," Yeltsin added. He gave instructions to Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to make a list of concrete matters that should be resolved at the coming meeting of the head of the cabinet with the Belarussian leader.

Speaking of the personal aspect of the meeting Yeltsin said:"I did not develop an allergy against President Lukashenko. On the contrary, I felt deep sympathy." In this context he expressed the opinion that part of the Russian media misinterpreted the Belarussian elections and their outcome.

Lukashenko was also satisfied with his first meeting with the Russian leader in the Kremlin. He said he brought an invitation to Yeltsin who is going to make an official visit to Belarus already this year. He added that Yeltsin gave a list of 13 concrete instructions to Chernomyrdin. According to Lukashenko, they cover the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, not just economic matters, beginning with a new friendship and cooperation treaty and ending with purely practical matters.

On the unification of the monetary systems of the two countries Lukashenko said:"The document is practically ready. It calls for similarity in the depth and degree of economic reforms in the two countries. The document has been agreed upon with Aleksandr Shokhin (the Russian Economics Minister) and written so as not to infringe on Belarussian sovereignty in any way."

Just before the talks the Belarussian leader said the future of the monetary union would be the key issue of his meeting with Yeltsin. In his opinion certainty on the matter should be reached in the nearest future. "The problem must be resolved without delay instead of keeping the public in the dark," the president said.

The second important subject, according to Lukashenka, was the Belarussian debt for Russian oil and gas.

IF Note: Experts from the two countries discussed the possibility of an agreement on transforming the 1993 debt of one trillion rubles into a government loan. According to the Belarussian ambassador in Moscow Viktor Danilenko, the summit was supposed to discuss the possibility of lending 750 Bn [billion] rubles to Minsk in the second half. The agenda of the summit also included a set of political matters, such as the status of Russian military facilities in Belarus and the terms of their stay: the Gantsevich radar station and the Russian Baltic Fleet control station in Vileika. The aides of the two presidents think the main purpose of the first summit was to establish personal close contacts between the two leaders rather than sign concrete political and economic agreements.

This was confirmed by Lukashenka after the meeting. He described as a very important circumstance the fact that a direct link was established with Boris Yeltsin. "The main thing is that there will be no other people between us, he said. Contacts at any time of the night and day are a foundation for full understanding that exists between our two countries and nations."

On the attitude of Belarus to CIS problems Lukashenka said he holds a practical view of the Commonwealth. "Our countries do not have another alternative. But we must fill CIS declarations with more concrete contents. The time of simple letters of intent is over," he said.

The final communique of the summit expresses the common opinion of the presidents that a new political treaty will raise bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level. Therefore it would be useful to speed up work on the treaty in order to sign it by the end of the year.

Special attention was paid to joint measures to stabilize the two economies. In this context the two sides exchanged opinions of the formation and functioning of a common monetary system. Russia and Belarus confirmed their loyalty to their earlier understandings on the subject and favored the speedy introduction of their implementation mechanism.

IF Note: On Tuesday high-ranking officials from the Russian Central Bank and a Belarussian government delegation held talks to amend some provisions of earlier agreements on the unification of monetary systems. In keeping with the amendments the Russian Central Bank is expected to be in charge of money and credit emission and remain the single emission center. The Belarussian National Bank will be responsible for transactions with broad cash and loans in the territory of Belarus with due account to the interests of Moscow and Minsk.

The two heads of state think that in the present critical economic situation it is useful to take emergency steps to restore traditional production and economic ties. For the purpose they agreed to use more effectively the possibilities of joint involvement in economic and territorial development, joint projects, in particular in developing oil and gas fields, oil refining, the construction of gas pipelines and highways.

The interests of countries and their citizens prompt the need to keep up a common economic space where in

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conditions of a free market production will effectively develop, goods,services, capital and labor force move freely, the leaders of Russia and Belarus believe.

The two sides also recognized the usefulness of promoting direct ties between companies, increasing mutual shipments of goods, improving the structure of trade. Moscow will try to step up imports of manufactured goods from Belarus the production of which remains oriented primarily for Russian customers.

The two sides reached agreement on drafting a package of agreements in defence, culture and the humanitarian sphere that would meeting the interests of both nations.

They agreed to cooperate in resolving common environmental problems. They shared the opinion about the scale of the Chernobyl disaster and Russia confirmed its readiness to continue helping Belarus clear the aftermath of the accident.

Leaders Agree 'On All Questions'

LD0308162094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS— "In the course of today's working visit we discussed 13 main problems and seven additional ones and reached mutual understanding on all questions," President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Byelorussia [Belarus] told a press conference in his republic's embassy in Moscow.

He said his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin lasted more than one hour and twenty minutes, and his talks with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin continued for about two hours and 15 minutes.

According to the Byelorussian president, his talks in Moscow produced a strategic plan for the further development of bilateral relations, including the preparation and signing of a full-scale treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two states, which will be signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Minsk, tentatively scheduled for September.

As concerns economic cooperation between the two countries, Lukashenka stressed the advisability of creating joint enterprises both on Byelorussian territory and in Russia. According to him, this will help preserve jobs and avoid unemployment.

As regards prospects for cooperation among the three Slav republics, the president said, "the borders between the Slav republics must be transparent". Lukashenka did not specify when the borders in question will become transparent but explained that the change will depend on the wishes of the three countries.

Chernomyrdin, Lukashenka Agree on Monetary Union

LD0308154594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—By early fall Russia and Belarus will have completed the preparation of principles and mechanisms for uniting their monetary systems. Unification itself will be implemented stage-by-stage in accordance with the earlier attained accords between the two independent states, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenka announced after the end of the Russian-Belarusian talks at the Russian Government building today.

The Belarusian economy needs to carry out deeper reforms in order to ensure that the introduction of the ruble in Belarus is achieved painlessly both for Russia and for its neighbor, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Aleksandr Lukashenka admitted when answering questions from journalists. Specifically, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that a thorough examination of all the issues of uniting the monetary systems should not be done in a hurry. Unification, Viktor Chernomyrdin remarked, must include such questions as the creation of a single banking system, adherence to a single emission policy, and finally, a single approach to solving economic problems and jointly drafting a strategy of economic development.

Also, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that Russia is prepared to show flexibility in its approach to the problem of Belarusia's debt which today amounts to approximately one trillion rubles. In particular, the Russian prime minister proposed to provide the Belarusian leadership with Russia's entire experience of implementing economic reform. In his turn, Aleksandr Lukashenka expressed readiness to take account of the history of Russian reforms, including their negative aspects. The Belarusian president stressed that the problem of his country's debt to Russia will be solved successfully in the event bilateral trade is stepped up, and joint projects—for instance, in the oil industry—are developed and joint enterprises set up. A considerable part of the Belarusian debt will be paid for by Belarusian goods.

Aleksandr Lukashenka described a new aspect in developing economic cooperation with Russia which was discussed at today's talks, that of stricter control over the implementation of agreements. As for the 150 billion [ruble] credit to Belarus which was agreed earlier in Minsk, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that it will be given following the Russian parliament's decision after the summer recess is over.

The head of the Russian government and the Belarusian president announced that they agreed to instruct the relevant ministries and departments to speed up preparation of a full-scale treaty on friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation. Along with more than 20 other agreements the treaty will be signed probably in September when Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin visit Minsk, Aleksandr Lukashenka said.

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Monetary Union 'Gradual Process'

LD0308202394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin speaking after two hours of talks with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus in Moscow on Wednesday said that the main stages of a monetary deal with Belarus would be determined next month.

He said this would mark the start of implementing the accords signed with the previous Belarussian government.

"We do not want any more discussion on this topic. We have to start from somewhere after all. This is the main question now," Chernomyrdin said adding that the unification of the two currencies would be a slow and gradual process.

"The proposed monetary union provides for a common approach to resolving economic problems. But Belarus has fallen behind Russia in implementing reforms," he said. Chernomyrdin said he was convinced that many will be unable to sustain the rapid currency unification.

Lukashenka said his government no longer insisted on speeding up the process of a monetary merger with Russia.

"We have now accepted the Russian position and started to calculate the implications that may follow", he said. Lukashenka has agreed with the Russian PM's view about the need to even up economic conditions in both countries first. As an example, he pointed to Russia's monthly inflation of 5- 6% compared to 40% in Belarus.

Lukashenka said the Russian president and prime minister were expected to arrive in Minsk in mid-autumn to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty and a package of 20 related agreements. Lukashenka said that both of them had kept up their promise to back up Belarus which they gave during a telephone conversation soon after his election as president.

Chernomyrdin held out promises of asking parliament when it reconvenes to approve a 150 billion ruble credit to Belarus.

He also promised that Moscow would share its experience in implementing reforms with Belarus. "We know our mistakes and tell you what must not be done," he said addressing Lukashenka

Lukashenka pledged his country's commitment to repay its debt to Russia by increasing exports to its markets first. He thanked the Russian government for not pressing Belarus on repayment schedules.

Treaty With Belarus To Be Signed by Year's End

LD0308143394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Preparations for a new political treaty that would confirm the special, priority nature of Russia-Belarusian relations, foster closer relations in all fields and strengthen friendship and all-round cooperation were the focus of attention at the meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Belarusian counterpart Aleksandr Lukashenka in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

The presidential press service reported after the talks that the "establishment of close relations would be based on mutual respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders, equality and non-interference in domestic affairs, as well as on strict compliance with mutual commitments."

The Russian and Belarusian presidents were unanimous that the new political treaty would raise bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level. It was found expedient to speed up the preparation of the treaty to make it ready for signature already this year.

Particular attention was paid to joint measures aimed at stabilizing the Russian and Belarusian economies. Yeltsin and Lukashenka exchanged views on the establishment and maintaining of a joint monetary system. Russia and Belarus confirmed their commitment to the previous agreements on the issue and came out for implementing them at an early date.

Yeltsin and Lukashenka believe that in the current critical economic situation urgent measures should be taken to restore the traditional industrial and economic ties. They agreed to expand cooperation in developing industrial sectors and regions through joint projects, for instance, the development of oil and gas fields, oil refining, pipeline and road-building projects.

Yeltsin and Lukashenka believe the interests of both countries and their citizens call for a common economic space where, in the context of market relations, production would develop effectively and goods, services, capital and labor would move freely.

It was found expedient to promote direct ties between economic entities of both countries and to increase trade in goods along with improving the structure of trade turnover. Moscow will seek to increase the importing of goods from Belarus, whose industries are oriented towards the Russian market.

The sides agreed it would be feasible to draft a package of agreements in the military-political, cultural and humanitarian spheres, meeting the interests of both peoples.

The sides agreed to carry out coordinated measures to resolve common environmental problems. Both countries are in favor of assessing the scale of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. Russia confirmed its readiness to continue assistance to Belarus in eliminating the effects of that disaster.

Yeltsin and Lukashenka agreed to hold meetings on a regular basis to discuss crucial aspects of bilateral relations.

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Lukashenka invited Yeltsin to pay a visit to Minsk at a convenient time. The date of such a visit is to be settled through diplomatic channels at a later time.

Kokoshin, Belarus Defense Official View Cooperation

LD0308140894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 3 Aug 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The prospects for deepening cooperation between the armed forces of Russia and of Belorussia [Belarus] were discussed at a meeting today between Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense, and Colonel General Anatoliy Kostenko, Belorussia's minister of defense, who arrived in Moscow together with [President] Aleksandr Lukashenka. This was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent at the information and press directorate of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

UN Envoy Demands Positive Answer From Bosnian Serbs

LD0308212694 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2105 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] New York, August 3 (TANJUG)—We want a positive and no other answer from Bosnian Serbs in connection with the peace plan and map offered by the Contact Group, Yuliy Vorontsov said on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters after today's session of the Security Council, the Russian ambassador who presides over this U.N. body, said that the council would give Bosnian Serbs another 3-4 days to reconsider before placing this issue on the agenda.

Vorontsov assessed that 'the very forceful statements' by Yugoslav leaders, proclaimed in their statements distributed to the Security Council, 'will be the crucial moment now and they will achieve results by their pressure on Bosnian Serbs.'

In their statements, the Yugoslav leaders demanded from Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan.

In that event, the task of the Security Council next week will be much easier, the ambassador said. 'If not, then we have no other alternative but to go decisively with the sanctions,' he said.

Asked about Russia's stand on the exemption of Moslems from the arms embargo on former Yugoslavia, Vorontsov said that he hoped this would not be necessary and that he still believed both sides would accept the Contact Group plan.

He expressed confidence that new sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would not be necessary, basing this on assurances Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had received in Belgrade.

'This is the first time that Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) made such forceful statements, even an ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs. It is something entirely new, so maybe we will have an entirely new situation there,' he said.

'In that case the sanctions will be eased. It has been agreed in the Contact Group,' Vorontsov concluded.

Opposition Group To Obstruct Excercises With U.S.

LD0308194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The opposition Working Russia movement does not want the Russian-American exercises scheduled to be held in the Totsk range, Southern Urals, next fall to go ahead, the movement leader Viktor Anpilov said today.

He told a rally, called in defense of the Glasnost opposition newspaper, that veterans of the armed forces in Russia and Transdniestria will be sent to the range to obstruct the exercises. Anpilov said that this would be an operation named Russians Are Coming.

He also said that at 16:00 on August 19 Working Russia supporters would march on the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces demanding that the exercises be called off and Americans not allowed to stay on Russian soil.

At the rally for which a crowd of 300 gathered officials of the Union of Communists and the Vozrozhdeniye liberal democratic party called for support for the Glasnost newspaper whose circulation has dropped from 50,000 to 20,000.

Government Says Plutonium Stolen From Another Country

LD0308155294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1216 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, August 3 (TASS)—The "Russian origin" of the six grams of plutonium-239 confiscated from German citizen Adolf Jeckle in May was categorically denied by a spokesman for the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service in an interview with ITAR-TASS today.

"These allegations by Western politicians and scientists, vastly spread and commented upon by the press, are absolutely groundless and cannot be proved," the spokesman, Vladimir Tomarovsky said. "We have not recorded even a single case of any leak of nuclear materials suitable for manufacturing weapons".

"We are not saying that the problem of leaks does not exist in principle. We have informed the public about all cases of thefts of radioactive elements and the measures which were taken to block their smuggling abroad, but in

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none of those cases we came across weapon-grade materials", Tomarovsky said. He added that an international atomic energy agency commission which worked in Russia found no violations in this sphere. As concerns "media ballyhoos" that occur from time to time in connection with Russia's alleged inability to ensure strict control over its nuclear materials arise due to political and economic reasons, the spokesman said.

Tomarovsky confirmed that the special services of federal services proposed interaction to prevent nuclear contraband and set up a joint expert group to work out necessary approaches and instruments. Nonetheless, these proposals are not more than "a statement of intent".

Germany has refused to let Russian specialists and counterintelligence officers participate in the investigation of the "six grams affair" relating to the weapon-grade plutonium of allegedly Russian origin or give Russia part of the substance for experts to study in this country, Tomarovsky said.

"We are not saying that the problem does not and cannot exist in principle. But we are decisively against publicizing statements of this kind before an objective investigation is made. They cause fear and anxiety in many countries, which is understandable. Similar campaigns in the past ended in nothing. Reason calls for clarifying he situation and for avoiding anything that stirs up public anxiety unnecessarily. Any act to the contrary is dictated by the desire to gain an economic or political capital. We are in favour of a reasonable, balanced approach," Tomarovsky said.

Russia To Send Two Platoons to Abkhazia

LD0308173694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The commander of Russia's peacekeeping force in Georgia has decided to deploy two airborne platoons in the Kodori Gorge on the territory of Georgia's separatist province of Abkhazia.

The village of Lata, where the platoons are to be positioned, "will be the base for the Russian peacekeeping troops patrolling the gorge," Major-General Vasiliy Yakushev told Interfax on Wednesday.

He said the airborne contingent was due to arrive at the village on August 8.

Yakushev quoted Georgian Deputy Defense Minister Zurab Nikolaishvili as telling him at their meeting in Gali on Tuesday [2 August] that Georgia had still not set a date for the withdrawal of its troops from the gorge.

Meanwhile, Stanislav Lakoba, deputy head of the Abkhazian legislature, told Interfax that Abkhazia would not resume talks on the refugee issue before Georgia pulled out all its forces from the Kodori Gorge. However, up to 60 percent of Gali District's population have already returned home, Lakoba said.

At the same time he said that what, according to him is "Russia's virtual economic blockade" doesn't help to solve the refugee problem.

Troop Withdrawal From Latvia Completed 31 Jul

MM0408095194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov: "Russian Federation Combat Units Have Left Latvia"]

[Text] The last train carrying a motorized infantry brigade's combat hardware and arms left for Russia 31 July. There is thus not a single Russian Armed Forces' combat subunit remaining on Latvian territory today.

"Troop withdrawal is progressing strictly according to schedule," Major General Nikolay Taylakov, chief of the Northwestern Group of Forces [NWGF] Staff Directorate in Charge of Troop Withdrawal, commented a propos this report.

As the NWGF Press Center reported, the Group command has conveyed to the Latvian side the latest report on troop withdrawal, showing their status as of 1 August 1994. More than 100 military units and establishments, representing 72 percent of the total number of troops withdrawn since the signing of the relevant bilateral treaty, have left the territory of the Latvian Republic in recent time.

The NWGF command has requested that the Latvian authorities expedite the decision on extending to 31 December 1994 the temporary permit to reside in the Latvian republic enjoyed by the families of military pensioners awaiting accommodation in Russia.

Troops in Estonia Remain 'Combat-Capable'

MM0308132794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Valeriy Gerasimov, commander of Yelna Motorized Rifle Division, by Leonid Levitskiy in Tallinn; date not given: "Yelna Division Returning From Estonia to Smolensk Area"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The military compound in Tallinn.... Solid old brick buildings among ancient pines. Wide asphalt strips—for equipment. Among the pines there are paths trodden by people almost as far back as Peter I's grenadiers. A guard stands by the command's four colors in the lobby of the divisional headquarters.

Colonel Valeriy Vasilyevich Gerasimov, division commander, is only 38 years old. He was born in Kazan. He graduated from the Suvorov School in 1973, from a tank command school four years later, and from the Armored Troops Academy another 10 years after that.

I talked to him on two occasions. The first conversation was at the height of the dispute between Russia and

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Estonia over the troop withdrawal deadline. The second was after the two countries' presidents had agreed that the last troops would leave Estonia by 31 August.

[Levitskiy] Valeriy Vasilyevich, introduce the division to Russians.

[Gerasimov] Its full name is the Yelna Order of Suvorov Red Banner Second Class Motorized Rifle Guards Division. It now appears everywhere as the 144th Motorized Rifle Division. It was formed in 1922 in Saratov. In 1935 it was redeployed to the Far East. It proved itself in the fighting at Lake Khasan. In 1941 it defended Moscow—it was on the Borodino battlefield. The honorary title of "Yelna" was conferred on it for courage in the battles of Yelna. It was awarded the Order of Suvorov Second Class for liberating Riga. It has been in Tallinn since 1945. The division remains part of the Russian Armed Forces cadres. We are now preparing for redeployment to Russia.

[Levitskiy] Where to exactly?

[Gerasimov] To Moscow Military District, the Smolensk area.

[Levitskiy] People are saying that you are expected in Yelna itself....

[Gerasimov] If you are told the Smolensk area, that is what you take it to be, the Smolensk area.... The division, with support from the local administration and with Russian construction workers, is preparing a new base for itself. It is simply absurd to talk about empty fields and tents. A considerable amount has already been done to provide the normal amenities for the division, although we do not have time to complete what was planned. Until the construction of apartment blocks is finished we have rented sanatoriums, preventive clinics, and tourist centers as temporary accommodations for servicemen.

[Levitskiy] Is Estonia assisting your redeployment?

[Gerasimov] All talk of assistance from Estonia is just talk. We are redeploying at the Russian Defense Ministry's expense.

[Levitskiy] People are still saying that for a long time there has been no division in Tallinn. Depots, equipment, homeless officers attached to them....

[Gerasimov] Utter nonsense! The division, albeit in a reduced form, is fully combat-capable. We are ready for any development of events.

[Levitskiy] But people in Estonia are writing that you have already withdrawn almost all equipment, ammunition, and property.

[Gerasimov] Everything has been withdrawn that should have been withdrawn according to the norms of echelonment—regulation reserves for every item of weaponry.

[Levitskiy] If necessary, could you spend the winter in Tallinn?

[Gerasimov] We have been provided with everything necessary for complete autonomy: We have a mechanized bakery, an electricity station, and water and sewage works.

[Levitskiy] Major General Einseln, commander of Estonian defense forces and a former U.S. Army colonel, promised if necessary to purge the territory of the "foreign state's" troops. A purely theoretical question: Would he be able to keep his word?

[Gerasimov] Mr. Einseln served for many years in a respectable army and has combat experience. He is perfectly well aware that the untrained soldiers of the fledgling Estonian Army, the Kaitseliit, armed with small arms, are powerless against units which are well-trained, experienced, and equipped with sophisticated weapons. Evidently for some reason it was necessary and advantageous for the major general to promise the people imaginary victories.

[Levitskiy] Did you not refute his claim?

[Gerasimov] We do not interfere at all in the Estonian Republic's life. We have our own Army concerns.

[Levitskiy] For two years the division has not received replacement troops. What kind of combay capability can it be said to have?

(Gerasimov] Estonia has prohibited new Russian servicemen from coming in. The departure of officers or their transfer to the armies of Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belorussia [Belarus] is natural in these times. Now only those who have linked their fate with Russia forever are left in the division. We have coped with the problem of personnel replacements, although not entirely, of course, by accepting contract servicemen. This system has proved itself here. Russian citizens, mainly children of military pensioners and reserve officers, who have performed active service in the Army have come to the division. For them the division provides a real opportunity to return to Russia.

Russia Said Not Given Credit for International Aid

MM0308112394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "Flight from Death Zone. Reportage by Special Correspondent Valeriy Yakov from Rwandan Refugee Camp in Zaire"]

[Excerpts] Over 1 million Rwandan refugees have massed near the Zairian city of Goma on the border with Rwanda. They are dying in their thousands here from hunger and cholera, graves are being dug by bulldozers, and people are being buried by the truckload. Several Russian women who escaped from Rwanda with their children had also ended up in this hell. An aircraft from

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the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations flew from Moscow specially to rescue them..... [passage omitted]

International aid is gaining momentum, and that is providing reassurance that it may prove possible to stop this unprecedented tragedy developing by joint efforts.

Russian aid does not look meager or insignificant here, although that is precisely how many people would like to present it. The press is doggedly refusing to take notice of Russian citizens operating in what is indeed a "hot spot," although a detachment of drivers supplied by the Ministry for Emergency Situations which arrived at the refugee camp in Tanzania back in May was the first well-organized team of Europeans to mount active work here. In this period our transport detachment has shipped thousands of tonnes of UN humanitarian freight, moved over 200,000 refugees to camps, trained a group of local inhabitants to be drivers, and handed them their first consignment of vehicles.... This intensive work in complex conditions to which Europeans are unaccustomed is regrettably not failing to leave its mark—29 of the 60 people in our transport detachment have already gone down with malaria. One was on the brink of death, but it proved possible to save him at the last minute. Yet in all this time there has been no request for an early return home.

The transport detachment in Yugoslavia, which has been at work for over a year, the detachment in Tanzania, the aircraft that took Russian citizens out of South Yemen, the aircraft that carried our compatriots with their children out of Goma...are all links in the same chain, part of a single, exceptionally important cause. And it is not confined solely to the Ministry for Emergency Situations, which is deemed the equal partner of the corresponding UN structures and comparable foreign organizations. The new Russia is proving its worth in this work, which is not particularly noticeable at home, by not only seeking aid and selling its raw materials and brainpower on the cheap but also being able to help out and act confidently and professionally. And undertaking—albeit by modest and as yet isolated efforts—to remember its citizens wherever they may be, for whatever reason they may be outside their homeland, and no matter what trouble they are in.

Russia, Kuwait To Conduct Military Exercises in Gulf

LD0308175894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Russia and Kuwait plan to carry out joint military exercises in the Persian Gulf. The exercises are expected to take place next October. Such an agreement was reached during the visit by the Kuwaiti military delegation to Moscow.

A high-ranking officer in the Russian Defense Ministry told Interfax today that two Kuwaiti missile motor boats and one or two Russian ships will take part in the exercises.

The officer said that the Kuwaiti delegation had discussed in Moscow plans to purchase Russian military equipment and spare parts.

He added that the Kuwaiti delegation had shown keen interest in Russian support ships, such as tugboats and hover crafts. The officer said that Russian hover crafts could be considered the best in the world due in part to their ability to be used in shallow waters. This is especially important for Kuwait since large military ships sometimes are unable to approach Kuwaiti islands, he added.

Company Declines Comment on Kuwaiti Arms Deal

LD0308174194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1317 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Kuwait August 3 TASS—Sheikh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah, defence minister of Kuwait, said on Tuesday that his government is shortly to sign an agreement on purchasing arms from Russia. He made this statement after the completion of joint Kuwaiti-Russian military exercises.

The minister neither specified the volume of the deal nor the types of arms to be purchased. It is assumed that the proposed deal will involve armoured personnel carriers equipped with rockets and specially adapted for desert conditions equipment. Unofficially the deal was quoted to cost about 800 million U.S. dollars.

Moscow August 3 TASS—"The "Rosvooruzheniye" state company's press centre for the time being refrains from commenting on the Kuwaiti defence minister's statement," official representative of the company said in response to a request by ITAR-TASS to confirm the fact of possibility of signing a contract and elaborate on the proposed deal's technical and price details.

ITAR-TASS has come to know, a technical group of specialists from "Rosvooruzheniye" had recently visited Kuwait, and it had held talks on questions of selling a consignment of arms to the emirate with competent Kuwaiti officials.

Iraqi Compliance Key to Lifting Sanctions

LD0308153594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The possibility of gradually lifting the sanctions imposed against Iraq will depend on whether Baghdad decides to cooperate with the U.N. commission for disarming Iraq, and whether it complies with the basic demands of the world community. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax on Wednesday by Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Boris Kolokolov.

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These demands include the need for the Saddam Husayn regime to recognize Kuwait's independence and border demarcated by the U.N., and supply full information on the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and detainees held in Iraq.

As Kolokolov said, these provisions are "the most sensitive aspect of the problem connected with the lifting of sanctions." Nevertheless Moscow believes that there is a need to "tackle this issue objectively and begin to think, without easing the pressure exerted on Baghdad, about lifting the sanctions."

According to Kolokolov, the Iraqi side "cooperates with the U.N. commission willingly enough; it has already complied with several disarmament provisions of the Security Council's Resolution No.687." "While some of our Security Council partners, such as the USA, are categorically against the lifting of sanctions, we say that such a possibility should be considered, provided that Baghdad honors the world community's demands," Russia's deputy foreign minister stressed.

He referred to Point 22 of Resolution No.687 issued by the U.N. security Council. It says that if Baghdad complies with the resolution's disarmament provisions, discussions on the issue of lifting the oil embargo will become possible," the diplomat said. "In other words, from the legal point of view, the lifting of some elements of sanctions, while maintaining the sanctions as such for some time, is quite feasible," he explained.

The Russian side, Kolokolov said, "has been continually in touch with Iraqi officials"; "it has exerted intensive diplomatic efforts with a view to persuading Baghdad to take more vigorous actions in the area of complying with the U.N. Security Council resolution."

Facts, Conjecture on DPRK Nuke Program Cited

MM1507103194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Mikhail Morozov under the "Sensation?" rubric: "It Has Not Yet Been Possible To Find a Nuclear Bomb in the Dark Dungeon"]

[Text] The topic of North Korea's nuclear efforts is as scandalous as it is confused. Every side that has been dragged into the conflict is pursuing its own objectives, confusing the situation, and politicizing it to an extreme degree. Even if we gather together all the available information, it is impossible to provide an unambiguous answer to the question of whether the Koreans have a bomb or whether they can develop one. But nevertheless we must try to inject some clarity into the matter. Regarding the history of the issue.

In 1985 U.S. official spokesmen announced for the first time that they had intelligence data proving that a secret nuclear reactor was being built 90 km north of Pyongyang near the small town of Yongbyon. In July 1990 THE WASHINGTON POST reported that new satellite photographs showed the presence in Yongbyon of a structure which could possibly be used to separate plutonium from nuclear fuel. In September 1989 the London magazine JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY stated that North Korea "could manufacture nuclear devices in five years' time, and the means to deliver them soon afterward."

The Americans have claimed throughout that they have irrefutable proof of work being carried out in the DPRK to develop a nuclear bomb. This claim is based on photographs taken from space which, however, the Americans have not been quick to publish.

Back in 1977 the DPRK concluded an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], allowing the latter to inspect a research reactor which was built with the assistance of the USSR. In 1985, under pressure from our country, Pyongyang acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We may therefore surmise that even back then U.S. suspicions were not entirely justified. Their statements about Korean guile did not mention that the installation at Yongbyon had been known about for eight years from official IAEA reports. Moreover, the possibility of using the equipment and materials supplied by the USSR for military purposes was practically ruled out, since under the agreement all information about these supplies was relayed to the IAEA immediately. In response to Western suspicions, Pyongyang confirmed in 1990 that another research reactor was being constructed at Yongbyon which was being used to study the peaceful uses of atomic energy. For a long time, however, the DPRK did not sign a verification agreement with the IAEA, thereby earning itself a more favorable position in international politics, and nor did it allow all the installations at Yongbyon to be inspected.

Who Benefits?

Many people benefit by whipping up a hullabaloo around the nuclear weapons that are allegedly being developed in the DPRK. In the United States such claims are built almost exclusively on data supplied by the CIA and the military, who are understandably inclined to exaggerate the capabilities of a potential adversary. The same tendency can be observed in Seoul, where there are fears of losing the U.S. nuclear umbrella. If necessary, Japan could use the argument of the nuclear threat posed by the DPRK to force the pace of its own military programs. To a certain extent this is also favorable to Pyongyang, since it increases its international weight and allows it to take up a more advantageous stance in talks with Japan and the United States.

Soviet Aid

Under the cooperation agreement concluded between the USSR and the DPRK, a nuclear research center was constructed near the small town of Yongbyon. In 1965 a Soviet IRT-2M research reactor was assembled for this

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center. From 1965 through 1973 fuel (fuel elements) enriched to 10 percent was supplied to the DPRK for this reactor. In 1974 Korean specialists independently modernized this reactor in the same way that other reactors operating in the USSR and other countries had been modernized, bringing its capacity up to 8 megawatts and switching to fuel enriched to 80 percent. Subsequently, the degree of fuel enrichment was reduced. During the entire period that this IRT-2M reactor was in operation, approximately 40 kg of fuel in terms of the basic fissionable material—U-235—were supplied to the DPRK. According to information from the Ministry of Atomic Energy, the delivery volumes of this fuel were in line with the normal requirements for this type of reactor. In other words, there was no "spare" fuel. This research reactor was monitored by the IAEA. (The agreement between the DPRK and the IAEA came into force 20 July 1977, according to IAEA information report CIRK/252 dated 28 September 1977.) It was inspected by experts from the agency twice a year.

In 1979 the DPRK asked Soviet organizations to sell it fuel for a nuclear testing installation which had been developed independently by Korean specialists at Pyongyang University. This request was refused, because the USSR only sold nuclear fuel for equipment made in this country. This installation was also registered by the IAEA. The USSR supplied the DPRK with no other materials or equipment.

Some 50 North Korean nuclear scientists were trained in Soviet nuclear centers, principally at Dubna near Moscow.

From 1989 through 1991 specialists from the Ministry of Atomic Power conducted design and survey work to choose a site for a nuclear electric power station. This work was conducted slowly since it was complicated by political and economic problems in both countries. Then, owing to a lack of money, the work was suspended.

The Korean Nuclear Program

V.N. Mikhaylov, director of the Soviet nuclear weapons program and current head of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy, stated unequivocally two years ago that "the USSR's nuclear weapons complex never had any connection with a possible program for developing nuclear weapons in the DPRK. We do not monitor any work they may be doing in this sphere. As a specialist I believe that, taking into account the level of development of North Korean industry, it would be impossible to develop a bomb there, at least in the near future, owing to the complexities of a technological nature." He has not changed his opinion to this day.

In Yongbyon, in addition to the research reactor and a 50-megawatt reactor currently under construction, there is a radiochemical laboratory, a plant for manufacturing fuel rods, and a storage facility for these rods. IAEA experts also harbor definite suspicions with regard to these facilities, especially as the Korean specialists, the IAEA experts claim, have already passed them unreliable information.

The director of one Ministry of Atomic Energy firm has expressed the opinion that there are theoretically other ways of accumulating the requisite quantity of a substance with military applications. For example, it is possible to chemically enrich uranium ores. Therefore it is necessary to check the sites where natural uranium is processed near the cities of Sunchon and Pyongsan, which have always been closed to foreigners, including Soviets. According to a Russian specialist who wished to remain anonymous, uranium extraction in these regions has been going on since the 1960's.

A military man who worked for many years in Korea told me that all Korean installations that are seriously engaged in defense work are sited deep in the mountains in areas inaccessible to outsiders, and if the Koreans had plants for manufacturing nuclear weapons components, no specialist would be able to establish their location. The same source believes that the Koreans possibly once had plans to develop their own nuclear weapons, but after encountering major difficulties they probably decided to rely on a missile program and establish a modern air force based on Soviet MiG-29's. This is the weapon which would probably pose the biggest danger to South Korea.

As is well known, nuclear ordnance becomes a weapon if there is a delivery system for it. According to claims in the Western press, missiles of the Nodong family with a range of around 1,000 km are already in service in the DPRK. But nobody has seen these missiles up close. On the other hand, it is known that North Korea's missile potential is based on obsolete missiles developed from Soviet Scuds. These represent 1950's Soviet missile design, and they could not even theoretically deliver a nuclear warhead (if such a thing could be produced in the DPRK) developed at the technological level of the initial period of nuclear research. Incidentally, there is a theory that claims that the DPRK is secretly buying up low-grade nuclear raw material in third countries and making warheads from it. This claim is as absurd as the other fabrications about the Korean potential. Such a "warhead" would weigh hundreds of tonnes. And the world's most powerful rocket—the Saturn—could carry only 135 tonnes.

Where Did These Developments Come From?

Over the past few years the United States has been constantly whipping up the situation by issuing statements about progress in the Korean nuclear program. The DPRK, exploiting this, delayed signing an inspection agreemen with the IAEA. An agreement was finally signed, and international experts examined the installations indicated by the U.S. satellites, but found nothing dangerous. Then new facilities were required so as to be able to whip things up further. The DPRK, joining the

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Non-Proliferation Treaty under pressure from the United States, the USSR, China, and other countries, was nonetheless hoping to strengthen its security—and in this respect Pyongyang's arguments are convincing.

The North Koreans, in pledging not to produce nuclear weapons, demanded their removal from the south of the peninsula and the organization of joint inter-Korean inspections of nuclear facilities in the north and south. Nothing of the sort transpired, and the Americans continue to hold the annual Team Spirit exercises, which rehearse offensive operations using nuclear weapons.

On the other hand, the IAEA pressure plays into Pyongyang's hands. By distracting the people's attention with an outside threat it gives it a chance to survive at a time when its economic position is very difficult and it is internationally isolated.

Pyongyang's step may also show that the DPRK has to a considerable extent been "cornered" and that further pressure on it will not be effective. The statement on its possible withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty was a signal that the United States and its allies would do well to ease the pressure on Pyongyang—which, from the standpoint of having nuclear weapons, is less of a danger to the world community than Pakistan or other "threshold states."

Observers' Opinions

It follows from Russian Foreign Ministry official statements that Moscow is siding with the U.S. position—albeit with some reservations. At the same time, many Russian Foreign Ministry staffers are privately saying that their department has no doubt that the Koreans lack nuclear warheads and the technological conditions for their production, and they also believe that the development of a nuclear weapons delivery vehicle in the DPRK is no less of a problem. One senior Foreign Ministry official working in the DPRK expressed the view that North Korea's lack of nuclear weapons means that there is no need to rush into imposing international sanctions on Pyongyang, which would merely help to bolster the Kim Il-song regime within the country.

A South Korean diplomat, who, for understandable reasons, wished to remain anonymous, expressed the view that, in the event of a decision to go for some kind of strong-arm measures against the DPRK, the United States and its allies would encounter hitherto unprecedented anti-American sentiments throughout the Korean Peninsula, including South Korea. A sense of nationalism would prevail over political considerations not only in public opinion but even among the South Korean elite.

In the view of a ranking French diplomat, turning the IAEA into a tool of international policy wielded by one group of countries (albeit Security Council members) will inevitably lead to a loss of confidence on the part of smaller countries and is unlikely to promote the resolution of the tasks facing this organization.

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Political Issues

Chernomyrdin on Taxation, Defense Industry, Chechnya

LD0208171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in Petrozavodsk, Karelia, Tuesday that his government will draft proposals on reforming the country's taxation system before next September.

He said that the government would not wait for parliament to make a decision on this issue and that the changes would come in the form of president decrees. Chernomyrdin expects a new taxation system starting January 1, 1995.

Chernomyrdin also reported that the government is working on a decision for rectifying the situation in the defense industry, which is in dire straits now. He explained that the decision would be comprehensive and involve significant spending.

Chernomyrdin urged the managers of defense factories to be more vigorous in turning towards civilian production.

He said that an ordinance on the Chechen situation is being prepared at present. Chernomyrdin emphasized that this is a burning issue and that bloodshed must be avoided.

Chernomyrdin Tells Companies To Solve Own Problems

LD0208181494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 2 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who continues his working tour of Karelia has urged company directors to look for solutions of their marketing problems themselves without waiting for help from the country's top officials. In his opinion it is time to get rid of old stereotypes.

"Enter the world market, look for orders inside the country and do not expect anyone to resolve your problems for you," Chernomyrdin said in Petrozavodsk on Tuesday in reply to a request from the head of Petrozavodskbummash , nt to help sell paper-making equipment.

The prime-minister said he is tired of complaints by company directors about the disruption of economic ties and appeals for money to keep up production.

Talking to local residents Chernomyrdin ruled out the possibility of changes in the tax system this year. Still he thought rates could be reduced next year. "We are going to cut taxes, taxation should not block production," he stressed.

Two weeks ago at a cabinet session Chernomyrdin spoke of the special significance of the tax policy at the new stage of reforms. He felt Russia already has the foundation of a tax system which should be strengthened removing major defects reducing its efficiency. Among the defects the prime-minister named primarily the uneven distribution of the tax burden among different categories of tax-payers. He drew attention to the fact that the brunt of the burden lies on companies while the taxation of personal incomes and property is comparatively low. The prime-minister said high tax rates are combined with an enormous number of tax cuts. The situation is aggravated by an excessive number of non-budget funds payments to which are tantamount to taxes to companies. The size of these funds approaches the consolidated budget of the country.

IF Note: In keeping with a presidential decree the government is expected to submit its proposals on improving the tax system to the autumn session of parliament. The cabinet recommendations will imply notable cuts in the rates of key taxes, such as the value added tax. The government plans to balance the process by a simultaneous abolition of tax benefits. Experts expect all the changes to be reflected in the 1995 federal budget.

Labor, Communists Hold Rally; Actions Planned

LD0308210494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Labor and communist organizations held a meeting of solidarity with the opposition press at the Teatralnaya Square in the Russian capital today.

Organizers of this action included the Union of Communists, the "Vozrozhdenye" (Revival) Party and the "Trudovaya Rossiya" (Labor Russia) Movement.

According to organizers of the meeting, they gathered people on the central square of the city in connection with more than the double reduction of the circulation of the "GLASNOST" newspaper—from 50,000 to 20,000 copies.

About 200-300 people gathered around an improvised platform.

Aleksey Prigarin, secretary of the city committee of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU, who opened the meeting said that the people's support is also needed by the PRAVDA newspaper "which is not always communist", as well as by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA which is

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sometimes right-wing minded. But first of all, small edition papers issued by the opposition, need solidarity of the people, he stressed.

Viktor Anpilov, leader of the Labor Russia Movement, told the meeting about plans of the movement for the near future. According to him, the movement he leads "is not only confirming the course" for the preparation for an all-Russian political strike but also will carry out an operation under the code name "Russians are Coming" in the second half of this month.

Viktor Anpilov urged his supporters to picket the building of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces on August 19 as a sign of protest against planned joint Russo-American military maneuvers on the Totsk proving ground in the Orenburg region.

According to the leader of the "Labor Russia" Movement, it is envisaged within the framework of this action to send veterans of the armed forces and participants in combat operations in the Dniester region to the area of the expected military maneuvers in order to "bar the way to American troops".

Economic Issues

MMM Lawyers Asks Government, Media To End 'Attack'

LD0208201394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Aleksandr Solashenko, MMM company attorney, called on the authorities and media to halt their attack on his client. The Moscow City Duma heard his testimony on August 2. The session discussing the MMM scandal was attended by Moscow City Government, law enforcement officials, prosecution office, tax inspection and other officials along with the deputies.

Solashenko also said that MMM President Sergey Mavrodiy intends to sue those in the mass media who attack his company. The attorney emphasized that the rumors that MMM had not invested in any property and thrived on financial speculation were not true. He said that the MMM-Invest foundation owns the third largest package of shares in the AvtoVAZ company and it is not fair to separate the MMM company from other MMM businesses.

Meanwhile, Dmitriy Chernik, chief of the Moscow branch of the Tax Inspection Office said that his agency and the tax police had just audited the Invest-Consulting subsidiary of the MMM system and discovered mass-scale tax evasion. Chernik said that the taxation inspection office had made a decision on August 1 to collect over 49 billion rubles from Invest-Consulting.

Developments in MMM Company Scandal

LD0308200794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Russia's scandalous MMM company president Sergey Mavrodiy did not show up at a meeting called by the Finance Ministry, the Anti-monopoly Committee, the tax inspectorate and the Moscow City authorities on Wednesday in an attempt to settle the latest and so far the largest financial crisis involving the company that has sent ripples of panic across Russia.

Instead appeared a lawyer who, however, failed to provide documents proving that he had been authorised by Mavrodiy to represent him at the meeting.

Russian Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Vavilov told BUSINESS-TASS that the lawyer had presented a statement the content of which would be announced later after the ministry had studied it.

Vavilov said that the major demands MMM is expected to meet include the provision of sufficient information about its activity and a register of its shareholders, as well as an auditing inspection of the company. This will help find out the real value of MMM shares, he said.

The Anti-monopoly Committee, the Finance Ministry and other organisations intend to use sanctions and penalties against MMM as envisaged by respective presidential decrees.

However, some leading experts make very critical assessments of government bodies's role in the scandal, including the Finance Ministry. When tax agencies and the Finance Ministry found out about MMM's real foundation they should have taken urgent measures to prevent negative social and economic consequences, former Soviet first vice-prime minister Vladimir Shcherbakov said.

Shcherbakov, who heads the international fund of privatisation and foreign investment support, told ITAR-TASS that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was right when he said that the government should not be responsible for MMM's obligations.

At the same time, Shcherbakov believes that government bodies bear moral and political responsibility for what has happened. "We have begun tremendous economic, political and social transformations and must understand that many people have no experience in such things. They believe advertisements in respectable mass media as they would believe an official document, and that's where they get trapped. That's why executive and legislative bodies should help prevent frauds," he said.

Other experts maintain that MMM has practically no chances of survival. Almost all departments of the state tax inspectorate, the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank and other agencies and organisations are involved in regulating the securities market. The introduction of proposed amendments and new laws will basically outlaw the activity of such companies.

A tax inspectorate official told BUSINESS-TASS that so far MMM has paid only 140 million roubles out of the overdue 1.5 billion rouble tax payments for 1993, let

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alone 50 billion roubles this year. At the same time, MMM has spent 240 billion roubles on advertising only on television. However, these figures have not been confirmed by the company.

Bomb Threat Reported at MMM Offices

LD0408111394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1052 GMT 4 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At noon today information reached the main Moscow internal affairs directorate about an anonymous telephone call which said a bomb had been put in the main office of the MMM joint-stock company on Varshavskoye Avenue. A finance correspondent reported that all the people had been led out of the office. The area around the building has been cordoned off. Experts and police sniffer dogs have been moved into to defuse the bomb. There are about 4,000 shareholders at the office. The situation is on the whole calm.

Military & Space Issues

Military Gets 'World's Largest' Ground-Effect Vehicle

MM0408114194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "On Land and Sea"]

[Text] The "Zubr"—the—was launched yesterday by the "Almaz" Shipyard Joint-Stock Company. Designed for transporting large assault-landing subunits and motorized units, it will be traveling to its permanent base—Baltiysk.

The vessel is capable of traveling on land and at sea. Its powerful turboprops develop sufficient thrust to perform high-speed dashes, which are very important in carrying out combat missions. The payload capability of the "Zubr" is 250 tonnes.

Airborne Assault Troops Clash With Militia

LD0308123694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] RIA reports that airborne assault troops celebrated their Day with extraordinary gusto in Moscow yesterday. They broke a window of a commercial kiosk on the square outside the Kiev train station and tried to steal the goods on display.

Militiamen had to fire into the air to avoid clashes. On Taganskaya Square the drunken airborne assault troops smashed two commercial kiosks and picked a fight with people of ethnic Caucasian origin.

In all, 71 people were detained in Moscow for drunkenness, hooliganism, and failure to obey the militia.

As for St. Petersburg, the Day of Airborne Assault Troops passed peacefully: the militia was helped to keep order there by active service airborne assault troops.

Kosmos-2285 Satellite Equipment Operating Normally

LD0308162794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 3 August—A "Cosmos-2285" artificial earth satellite was launched from the Russian Plesetsk cosmodrome on 2 August 1994, using a "Cosmos" launch vehicle. According to a report from the press service of the flight control center, the satellite is intended for use in the interests of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense.

The satellite was placed in orbit with the following initial parameters: period of revolution, 105 minutes; apogee, 1,025 km; perigee, 993 km; and orbital inclination, 74 degrees.

The equipment on the satellite is working normally.

Regional Affairs

Spokesman Says Chechen Authorities 'Control' Situation

LD0308163194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1606 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shvetsov]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—The Chechen authorities are fully in control of the situation in the republic. The government is working as usual, no emergency measures have been taken, following Tuesday's [2 August] statement of the Chechen Provisional Council, Movladi Udugov, spokesman for the Chechen Department of Information and the Press, said.

Udugov told ITAR-TASS by telephone on Wednesday that Chechen army top officials gathered in Groznyy today to discuss the "external situation and the movement of Russian troops" near the Chechen borders. Heads of local administrations also held a meeting on Wednesday.

Udugov said that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev "has no intention to begin an armed struggle with the opposition, provided the opposition does not make the first move." However, the Chechen authorities will take strong measures to stop the anti-constitutional activity of the opposition as envisaged by the Constitution.

The spokesman confirmed reports that the Chechen president planed to visit Moscow at the invitation of the leaders of several public and political movements and forces of Russia. He intended to meet not only with

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members of these movements, but also with representatives of the "Moscow public in order to tell them about the real situation in Chechnya." However, Dudayev has not announced his final decision yet.

Speaking with ITAR-TASS by telephone today, Chechen Public Prosecutor Usman Imayev said that the information he had did not indicate any energetic actions the Nadterechnyy District. He said he did not have information confirming that the opposition is setting up armed units in the district.

Imayev also said he had sent a letter to the acting Russian public prosecutor urging an "immediate extradition of Umar Avturkhanov accused of high treason to the Chechen authorities."

Chechen Opposition Leader on Interim Council

LD0308115494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The activities of the Chechen Interim Council are aimed at stabilizing the situation in the republic, creating normal conditions for life in Chechnya, the return to Chechnya of tens of thousands of refugees of various ethnic backgrounds—Chairman of the Interim Council, leader of the anti-Dudayev opposition Umar Avturkhanov told Interfax today.

In particular, Avturkhanov said that schools had begun preparing for the coming school year, that hospitals are being supplied with medicaments and delayed wages and pensions are being paid to people.

When asked about his opinion on the makeup of political forces in Chechnya, Avturkhanov said that the Interim Council is backed by the absolute majority of the population in all the largest regions of the republic. However, he did not offer a correlation between supporters and opponents of Chechen President Johar Dudayev.

Avturkhanov said he rejects force for solving the problem. However, he added that "if Dudayev chooses this course the response will be adequate."

Commenting on information that the Chechen prosecutor had signed permission for his arrest, Avturkhanov said that a criminal case against him had been instigated for the fourth time already.

Dudayev: No Intention of Quitting

MK0308103094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 31, 31 Jul - 7 Aug 94 (Signed to press 2 Aug 94) p 10

[Interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev by Tatyana Gantimirova: "Dzhokhar Dudayev: 'I Won't Go on my Own Accord']

[Text] In the three years of the existence of the unrecognized Chechen Republic, its president, General Dudayev, has survived three attempts on his life, three indefinite meetings demanding his resignation, and two coup attempts. Two prime ministers, two mayors of Groznyy, and a dozen associates who are fighting against him have walked out on him. As for Dudayev, he is holding on. Why? This is the subject of a conversation between Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev and journalist Tatyana Gantimirova [T.G.].

[T.G.] Mr. President, is it true that you have offered to return Chechnya to Moscow's control?

[Dudayev] It was not control but talks to revise the status of our relations, or the absence thereof, to be precise. And for the sake of preserving stability I recognize Russia's priority among the other neighbors, its influence on the Northern Caucasus. And I am ready for sensible compromises.

[T.G.] You renounce independence?

[Dudayev] Under no circumstances. This attainment of the Chechen revolution will evolve toward maturity.

[T.G.] Why is it then that you have described the Belovezhskaya Agreement as "criminal," and having given it a juridical rebuff, you are proposing to review it?

[Dzhokhar Dudayev] Because we are inseparable economically. Russia needs our oil and gasoline, while we need your market, including labor market. Don't forget that more than a third of my country's able-bodied population live on what they earn in Russia regularly traveling between St. Petersburg and Siberia. And no matter how Russian officials ignore us, we are cooperating unofficially with Stavropol, and Krasnodar krays, with Rostov, and Dagestan. I am in favor of formalizing the relations according to all the rules.

[T.G.] Do you seriously want to take Russia to court for the USSR's disintegration?

[Dudayev] I'm thinking about it.

[T.G.] What if Russia would not talk precisely with you?

[Dudayev] Then it would yet one more time prove that it is a long way from the democracy which has been declared. I have been elected by the people. Legitimately elected, while all the Russian delegations are insisting that I should sit down at the negotiating table together with violators of the law, with coup leaders and criminals they call in Russia "opposition to Dudayev." This is the same as wanting today to seat Yeltsin at the negotiating table together with Khasbulatov. As for me, I do not propose this to the president of Russia. Khasbulatov, however, has decided he fits the role of a mediator.

[T.G.] You turn down all mediators, including yesterday's associates. Even the military men, your mainstay, have also started to hesitate. After all, part of the Shalinskiy tank regiment has withdrawn from under your subordination. Is this not going to lead to your resignation?

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[Dudayev] I am not quitting of my own accord. As for what is being said about the Guards, it is a lie. On the whole they are maintaining order.

[T.G.] How do you account for the fact that all the terrorist acts and hostage takings in the Mineralyye Vody Airport coincide with the worsening of the situation in Groznyy?

[Dudayev] And how do you account for such facts? The Chechen police regularly take part in catching the criminals. The Russian side regularly hushes it up. In June, our police turned over one of the four criminals to Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs whereas Moscow announced that this criminal is hiding in Chechen forests. The plot is transparent: A myth about Chechnya's sheltering criminals is being created to the noise of terrorist acts. The conclusion: Order should be imposed there with the help of the Spetsnaz, and special-purpose troops, and there should be a puppet regime in Groznyy.

[T.G.] But there is a total breakdown of law and order in Chechnya.

[Dudayev] No more than in Russia.

Moscow Said Set To Oust Dudayev

MK0308104494 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[Viktoriya Shpak report: "The Opposition Has Ruled that Dudayev Is No Longer President"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Yesterday's statements by both Avturkhanov and Chernomyrdin suggest that a planned operation to unseat Dzhokhar Dudayev is under way. [passage omitted]

Politicians in Moscow are saying that a forceful solution to the conflict is impossible. However, the memories of trips to the Northern Caucasus by Federal Counterintelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin and a semi-legal visit to Groznyy by his deputy Yevgeniy Savostyanov, which are seen (and not only in Groznyy) as fact finding missions are still fresh. Also, there is Pavel Grachev's recent inspection of units in the North Caucasian Military District. At the time he paid particular attention to special task force units of the General Staff's Main Intelligence Directorate. As if by a coincidence, yesterday the paratrooper regiment located in Stavropol was, on Grachev's order, renamed Kazachiy [Cossack]. Observers say that should the Provisional Council need not just moral or financial support, "informal" Cossack subdivisions can come to its assistance, as was earlier the case in Abkhazia and the Dniester region.

However even if Moscow has not so far made up its mind to use force, there is no way Dudayev can count on any serious political support in Russia. Regarding Chechnya, the Russian Government acts in a single bloc even with the generally intransigent parliamentary opposition, which was yesterday confirmed by communist Viktor Ilyukhin who declared the need to "maintain contacts with the Chechen opposition—those who embody the healthy forces of Chechnya."

Demand To Extradite Avtorkhanov Said Illegal

LD0308120494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] The demand of Chechen Prosecutor General Usman Imayev that Moscow extradite leader of the Chechen opposition Umar Avtorkhanov is not valid and most likely will not be considered, a competent Russian legal expert, requesting anonymity, told INTERFAX today.

The legal expert said that in accordance with the Russian Constitution, Chechnya is a part of the Russian Federation and that such demands could be considered only in the sphere of inter-state relations.

Moreover, Moscow considers the appointment of Imayev as the Chechen Prosecutor General to be illegal. He was appointed without consulting the Russian Prosecutor General which contradicts the law on the Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation. As a result of this, there are no relations nor working contacts between the Russian and Chechen prosecutor's offices.

The legal expert also said that extradition of criminals or suspects to other states is carried out on the basis of state treaties and in the absence of such treaties this is done through the foreign ministers.

Shakhray: Chechens Should Determine Own Destiny

LD0308142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By Lyudmila Yermakova, Gennadiy Kipkeyev, ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Nalchik, 3 Aug—"The Chechen people should determine its own destiny, and we should help it," believes Sergey Shakhray, a deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government. Speaking today at the International Highlanders' Congress, he stressed that the issue should be solved without the use of force. He expressed hope that the congress will help in the search for ways to solve it.

"Criminals have no ethnic background," the government member insisted, but if they can go unpunished and use weapons against civilians, it is a shame for all the peoples of the Caucasus, Sergey Shakhray said. He stressed that his motherland was Kabarda-Balkaria and that he was, therefore, speaking as "a native of the Caucasus."

The deputy prime minister emphasized that the government was concerned over developments in the Caucasus. In his view, many acute problems are connected "not just with someone's hostility or ambitions, but with the

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fact that Russia is trying to go over to a new lifestyle." In view of this "one needs the reforms to be fine-tuned to the distinctive traditions of the peoples of the Caucasus."

Shakhray Stresses Peaceful Solution in Chechenya

LD0308172894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray told Interfax today that free elections and the conclusion of a power-sharing treaty with Russia were part of a possible political solution to the problems of Chechnya, a breakaway republic in southern Russia.

He said he believed that the Chechen people would be able to tackle their problems themselves, adding that they must be given support from their neighbors together with the Russian Government and people.

He stressed the importance of settling the problem by peaceful means.

He said that the Russian Government's priority was putting an end to crime in the Caucasus along with restoring civil rights and the Russian Constitution. "If this is a forceful plan then it is a peaceful force," Shakhray said.

Shakhray said that there will be no official response to Groznyy's demand to extradite the Chechen opposition leader Umar Avturkhanov and that Moscow will not consider this issue.

When asked about future developments in Chechnya, Shakhray said that a political "critical mass" will be created there which will force the settlement of the problem by free democratic elections and will lead to Dudayev's resignation.

He said this was the only way for a peaceful solution and that no time should be wasted.

Presidential Adviser: No Threat of War in Chechnya

LD0308115594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1113 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—"I am sure that there will be no threat of war in the Caucasus," said Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council and in charge of the Inter-Ethnic Relations and Regional Conflicts office in the Center for Analysis under the Russian Federation president. In an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent he noted that "Dzhokhar Dudayev is now supported only by those forces which he organized himself." Emil Pain believes that these forces are "a quite insignificant part of those at the top of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus."

The Presidential Council member is convinced that "not a single leader of the north Caucasus republics now has any interest in destabilizing the situation and the nationalist movements are too weak to rouse the population to fight."

On the subject of the 2 August decree on power passed by the Chechen Interim Council, which is opposed to D. Dudayev, Emil Pain noted that this document "has changed the alignment of forces in Chechnya and enshrined the existing polarization of forces." That means, he believes, that the decree on power made it possible for the political forces which are wavering to make a choice.

TASS Views Chechen Situation, Civil War Danger

LD0308182994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0953 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 Aug—In Moscow it is believed that more active moves by the Chechen opposition might, at the very least, lead to armed clashes and, at worst, to a civil war in the North Caucasian republic, which has declared its independence from Russia. Well-informed observers voiced this opinion to an ITAR-TASS correspondent in Moscow today. [passage omitted]

Observers in Moscow believe that the opposition realizes the unstable nature of the situation in the Chechen Republic and inclines toward a settlement of the problems by political means rather than force. At the same time, any outside intervention might provoke Dzhokhar Dudayev into measures of the most decisive kind—meaning that Dudayev might take control of Nadterechnyy rayon, which is now in opposition to him.

Analysts in the highest echelons of Russian power tend to believe that a situation has now arisen in Chechnya in which neither one side nor the other is capable of gaining the upper hand in a possible conflict. In their opinion, at the end of the day much depends on the stand taken by the "teyps" [ancestral clans exercising great influence over both Dudayev and his opponents].

However paradoxical, here they are not ruling out the possibility that another Chechen opposition figure—Ruslan Labazanov—is actually a secret ally of Dudayev playing a double game.

Conflict in Chechnya May Lead to Caucasian War

LD0308120594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] If an armed conflict is unleashed in Chechnya, "it will be impossible to restrain" the Ingushes from participation on the side "of the fraternal Chechen people because many Ingushes and Chechens are closely interrelated by family ties and as many as 40,000 Ingushes

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live in Groznyy," Russia's presidential aide Aliskhan Khatuyev declared to Interfax Wednesday.

Khatuyev expressed his opinion saying that a conflict in Chechnya would actually mean "the launching of a Caucasian war." "This would be a great misfortune for all Caucasian peoples." he underlined.

Speaking about possible support for Chechnya from other North Caucasian republics, Khatuyev declared that "these republics are connected by the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples and their moves can be unpredictable."

Khatuyev believes the position of the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev to be "very firm."

Ingush Leader Criticizes Russian Moves

LD0308173194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Ingush President Ruslan Aushev said in an interview with Interfax today he believed that Moscow's attempts to negotiate with the conflicting parties in Chechnya one at a time would not bring any positive results. He said he could not understand why one part of the Russian leadership was negotiating with the opposition and another one with Groznyy.

Aushev said that there was no unity and this was hindering the common cause. "I think it is not reasonable to rush to negotiate with one leader after another. It is necessary to negotiate with people in power," he added.

Aushev said he believed that any forceful settlement of the situation in Chechnya could lead to war in the Caucasus. He pressed for a political solution.

Statement Demanded From Yeltsin on Chechnya

MM0308184994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Commentary by Teymuraz Mamaladze: "Do Russians Want War? A Caucasian War..."]

[Text] Umar Avturkhanov's television appearance before the people of Russia last Tuesday surrounded by the fundamental documents of Chechnya's "new power" marks the start of a new spiral in the escalation of events around this North Caucasian republic.

The heat has been turned up under the good old Chechen ferment [brodilo] by the "Decree on Power" and the "Political Declaration" of the Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic, which were faxed to all Russia's major mass media outlets. All this is accompanied by statements from top officials in Russia and Groznyy, fired off at random. As is always the case in such a war of words, it is hard to isolate the kernel of truth, but on the whole a menacing picture arises.

CHECHENPRESS reports that "Tula Airborne Assault Division, which has been assigned a combat task in Chechnya, has been brought into a state of combat alert." However, in an interview with our correspondent Valeriy Yakov, General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of the Russian Airborne Troops, has stated that "there are no degrees of alert" and paratroopers are engaged in their own routine tasks. (We presume this means recovering after "celebrating" Airborne Troops Day.) Acknowledging that "Russia's major headache is Chechnya," Viktor Chernomyrdin stated in Petrozavodsk to ITAR-TASS' correspondents that all decisions concerning the Chechen knot of problems "do not imply a strong-arm solution." However, despite all this, variations on the classic theme "the evil Chechen crawls to the river bank and plunges his dagger" continue to evolve along the channel of strong-arm pressure. Already Stavropol's Cossacks, recalling the equally classic "Do not sleep, Cossack: The night-prowling Chechen is afoot in the darkness beyond the river" are demanding that borders be established with Chechnya or that the men in uniform be brought into action with instructions to carry out Operation "Filter" in the Northern Caucasus. The phrases heard in these demands about "genocide of the Orthodox people" smack distinctly of the last century, unearthing the green banner of ghazawat [conquest] from the historical memory. And despite the fact that Dzhokhar Dudayev clearly does not fit the bill of an Imam Shamyl [Muslim leader who opposed Russian rule in Dagestan in the 19th century], statements about his removal could well turn the former general of the USSR Air Force into a universal North Caucasian symbol.

All wars are usually preceded by an intense thickening of clouds of mysterious uncertainty. Dzhokhar Dudayev's "deposed" regime harps on about the preparation of FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] special subunits for subversive activity in Chechnya. Reports about the semilegal presence in or around Groznyy of FCS deputy head Yevgeniy Savostyanov add fuel to the flames. This "semilegal" might be able to remove a little of the fuel himself, but he is remaining silent. IZVESTIYA's correspondent Igor Andreyev was informed in the FCS Public Relations Center that "Savostyanov has not been in Chechnya in any shape or form, but has been on a scheduled official assignment in North Ossetia and Dagestan with the aim of studying the situation in the interests of the battle with terrorism." News that the head of the FCS is on leave (no one goes on leave on the eve of "D-Day") and the claim of Anatoliy Safonov, his deputy, transmitted to IZVESTIYA via his assistant, that his colleague Savostyanov is in Moscow, are also somewhat reassuring. But be that as it may, the bugbear of "Great Caucasian War II" has again been drawn forth from the pages of history.

Leaders of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples and the international "Caucasian Peoples Fund" state that in the event of an attempt to untie the "Chechen knot" by force, "every house in Chechnya will be turned into an armed fortress," mentioning the sort of quantity of arms

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stockpiled there that is capable of turning Dudayev's republic into Russia's powder keg.

The situation is unpredictable, but clearly explosive. The general-president could fall into the temptation of punishing the Nadterechnyy insurgents. Provocations against Russian-speakers are being predicted. The foray by one of the many opposition groups is clearly not supported by the others.

It is hard to say what lies behind the demarches of head of Nadterechnyy Rayon Avturkhanov. From the point of view of elementary common sense there is no way that his statements might be followed by any strong-arm actions capable of causing Russia to fight in the last ditch of the northern slopes of the Caucasian mountain chain. However, from experience both old and recent, we know that the component of common sense is most frequently absent from the store of all existing means and possibilities. There are no doubts that the ritual-formulaic overthrow of Dudayev could not have been undertaken on the spontaneous initiative of the new "ruler" of Chechnya alone. References to Doka Zavgayev, Yeltsin's "man, are denied by authoritative sources in Moscow and Groznyy. Incidentally, they report that "everything is calm" in Groznyy. Not everything, however, is calm here in Moscow and within ourselves. Times are different nowadays, but we should not forget the last century, when toward the end of the Caucasian War Russia spent a quarter of its budget on "pacifying" the Caucasus and maintained an army here of almost half a million men.

While we are recalling the past, it is appropriate to cite here the words of Vasiliy Velichko, a Russian publicist of the last century, editor of the newspaper KAVKAZ, about the "deadliness of the Caucasus" for Russian policy. This policy has always bneen smashed in two against the Caucasian chain, and the policy that has triumphed has always been based on force and pressure. It would appear that these "fragments of the past" are gaining the upper hand.

The problem of Chechnya and the whole of the Caucasus exists, but in the present circumstances its solution by force is fraught with tragic consequences for Russia and neighboring countries. The emergence of a "second Balkans" will complete a giant arc of conflicts along the southeastern borders of the world's Eurasian heartland [sredosteniye] and will increase the numerous threats to general security.

What is lacking in the prevailing situation is a clear, unambiguous statement from the Russian president on how he sees the situation and intends to act. (When this issue was signed to press we had no information on this question.) The remarks of the head of the presidential staff have proved insufficient.

Dudayev Pledges 'All Necessary Steps' Against Aggression

LD0408122394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] If Russia attempts to solve the Chechen problem by force, "Chechnya will take all necessary steps to repulse the aggression," President Dzhokhar Dudayev declared on Groznyy radio Wednesday night.

He said "the only thing that Russia can do in the event of such an attempt is to declare war and start military operations." He stressed that "there can be no introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya. And any attempt to use force will mean war between Russia and Chechnya."

Meanwhile, Chechnya's Council of Elders has issued a statement in which it emphasizes that if needed it "will mobilize all people against national renegades (opposition - Interfax)." "The Chechens are strong enough to uphold their independence," the document stresses.

Dudayev Says 'Permission' To Visit Moscow Withheld

LD0408121594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Chechen Press and Information Minister Movladi Udugov told Interfax today that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is ready to come to Moscow at any time in order to meet representatives of a number of Russian political organizations, including opposition leaders, but only after he receives permission to enter Russia.

Udugov said Dudayev had planned to leave for Moscow on August 4 but did not obtain permission to enter Russia.

Udugov stressed that no meetings between Dudayev and the Russian leaders had been planned.

Udugov confirmed the readiness of the Chechen leadership to negotiate with Moscow. He said Chechnya had been saying this for three years but "the Kremlin is not ready for talks."

Udugov stressed that Dudayev's recent statements on his readiness for talks had nothing to do with the present situation in Chechnya.

Commenting on the reaction of the Chechen authorities to the appointment of a new prosecutor general by the opposition Interim Council, Udugov said that Groznyy will not respond either to this or to any previous opposition documents.

Dudayev Must Be Ousted by 'Constitutional Means'

MM0408083194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Telephone interview with Ruslan Matiyev, head of the Chechen Republic Interim Council Administration, by

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Aleksandr Aleshkin; date not given: "Interim Council Believes In Its Success. Telephone Call to Nadterechnyy Rayon"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Yesterday our correspondent got through on the telephone to Znamenskaya village, the center of Nadterechnyy Rayon. Ruslan Matiyev, head of the Chechen Republic Interim Council Administration, came to the telephone. At our request to ask Interim Council Chairman Umar Avturkhanov to come to the telephone, Matiyev answered that he was not in the village at the moment and that he could not state where he was.

[Aleshkin] Then would you mind commenting on the situation in Groznyy and in the area in connection with the publication of the Interim Council's "Political Declaration" and the "Decree on Power."

[Matiyev] The situation in Groznyy is outwardly calm. In connection with your question, I would like to state straight away: We are not planning any combat actions, and we will not undertake any. Dudayev's regime must be removed by peaceful, constitutional means.

The following fact alone tells of his precariousness. Four people from the general's closest entourage (for obvious reasons, I will not give their names at present) have appealed to the council, stating their readiness to cooperate with us. They have become convinced of the criminal nature of Dudayev's policy.

Everything is peaceful in the rayon center too. There have been no incidents.

[Aleshkin] How are the local mass media assessing recent events in the republic?

[Matiyev] How can they assess them? Television, radio and the press are under Dudayev's strict control. And they say what he wants them to say and what pleases him. Such as the words about a band of conspirators and Moscow's intrigues.

[Aleshkin] Do you assess the position of the Interim Council differently?

[Matiyev] Yesterday we received a delegation from Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon. It fully supports the Interim Council's program, expounded in the declaration and the decree. We are supported by all the republic's rayons. Interim councils are being created in each of them. The situation in Groznyy is more difficult for us. There people are intimidated by the general's guards, they dance to their tune and do not make themselves conspicuous in any way. There is an atmosphere of fear and depression in the capital.

[Aleshkin] The mountain people usually lend great significance to the council of elders. How do they relate to recent events?

[Matiyev] Alas, even our esteemed elders (the council in its present form) are just as intimidated as other people. The Council of Elders is not daring to publicly condemn the criminal regime.

[Aleshkin] Are you hoping to achieve the aims proclaimed in the declaration?

[Matiyev] Undoubtedly.

Chechen Parliament Appeals For 'Dialogue' With Moscow

LD0408095094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0908 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 4 Aug—The Chechen Republic parliament has appealed to Moscow for the conflict with Groznyy to be resolved by talks alone and warned that the responsibility for a "violent resolution" of the problems would lie fully with Russia.

"Only a constructive political dialogue based on an equality of rights can bring about a stabilization in the situation in Russia and the Chechen Republic - and we are always ready for dialogue," the official CHECHEN-PRESS agency reported from Groznyy today, quoting a statement sent by the republic's parliament to the Russian Federal Assembly.

Chechen parliamentarians expressed bewilderment about - as they put it - "the Russian leaders planning to overthrow the legitimately elected authority in Chechnya in alliance with the so-called 'Chechen opposition' and leaders of bandit groups."

They described the republic's current problems as transitional difficulties. The situation in the republic remains stable and the leaders are fully in control, the Chechen parliament statement says.

Filatov Vows No Military Action in Chechnya

LD0408121494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Sergey Filatov, the head of the president's administration, today said in an interview with journalists that Russia was not preparing anything military in respect to Chechnya. Troops are staying put, only the guarding of roads linking Chechnya with the Russian regions has been stepped up, Filatov said.

In his opinion, the situation in Chechnya is determined to a considerable extent by the particular nature of the country and it is not worth Russia's while to intervene. Sergey Filatov noted that the Cossacks had today issued an ultimatum insisting on emergency measures along the border with Chechnya.

Filatov made it clear that the Russian Government would help to normalize the situation in Chechnya: if that authority is unable to feed the people or pay their pensions, the central authorities should do that, Filatov said.

'Signal From Moscow' Seen Encouraging Opposition

MM0408105994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Valentin Karkavtsev under the "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Coup By Workers' Letters"]

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[Text] It seems that Russia has never been closer than today to a new war in the Caucasus. The world shuddered as it saw the photographs of three severed heads put out to scare people—the unfortunate young Chechen men had helped the Russian special services to prevent a hostage-seizure in May. Now there is this new incident—this time with shooting, blood, and a Groznyy administration threat to down Russian aircraft if they pursue terrorists in the skies over Chechnya. It seems impossible to go on talking to the Dudayev regime. While officials in Moscow are carefully sizing up contacts with Dudayev's opponents, let us ask a few questions which have simply gone unanswered.

Why did the federal authorities so ineptly draw out the business with Chechnya and waste so many opportunities at an early stage to resolve the conflict peacefully? Why are the cutthroats from the "small but proud republic" who are taking hostages, forging letters of advice from banks for billions of rubles, and terrorizing Russian cities going practically unpunished?

Judging by the sharp tone of the Russian Government statement and Sergey Filatov's speech, the federal authorities no longer intend to wait for what General Dudayev serves them up. The signal from Moscow was picked up: A Temporary Chechen Council under the leadership of Umar Avturkhanov adopted in an instant a package of documents on the future authorities in the republic and yesterday declared General Dudayev's removal from power. But, as we know, power does not pass from one person (the general) to others through documents, however nicely they are presented. What will Moscow's next move be?

"Wholesome forces in the republic," "letters from inhabitants of Chechnya"—these familiar phrases put into circulation in recent days make you wonder if, possibly, there is already some scenario waiting to happen like, for example, that which began the Soviet-Finnish campaign of 1939 or launched the seizure of Amin's palace in 1979. But if such a scenario exists, it would not be a bad thing to remember that the Caucasus, dissatisfied with Moscow, has long been waiting for a new Shamil [Muslim leader of Chechnya/Dagestan rising against czar in 1840's and 1850's], with tens of thousands of armed men prepared to rise and capable of fighting to the last man under his banners. Why shouldn't a deposed Dudayev be a Shamil? Why shouldn't 20 million ethnic Russians living in the North Caucasus be prospective Zhilins and Kostylins [reference unknown]....

It is well known that all analogies are shaky. It is also well known that politics is the art of the possible, and what is possible changes more or less every day. In any case Russian citizens have a right to know the strategy for the federal authorities' actions with regard to Groznyy. After all, later when, God forbid, a new war in the Caucasus becomes a reality, it is the ordinary people who will have to pay for it—in soldiers' death notices, the wanderings of refugees, and the tears of orphans over their homes. When will a deputy be found who will publish the secret minutes of what is being discussed in these days....

Chechens Said Ready To Take Up Arms Against Intervention

MM0408085194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Lyudmila Beldyugina: "Groznyy Threatened With Intervention"]

[Text] The Russian Government statement "On the Situation in the Chechen Republic," transmitted via ITAR-TASS channels, has tangibly alarmed official Groznyy. Dudayev is meeting with the leaders of the republic's "power" structures literally every day for several hours at a time, behind the closed doors of the presidential office.

According to unofficial information from circles close to Dudayev, plans to repulse "Russian intervention" are being elaborated in the presidential palace.

"All the Chechen people will take up arms to defend their independence if Russia encroaches on it"—such statements have become a commonplace in all of the speeches on any pretext made by Dudayev and his entourage, who have tasted power and the possibility of having the national wealth at their unhindered disposal. But it would scarcely be sensible to disregard these bellicose statements and see them as empty threats today, at a time of the greatest exacerbation of relations between Moscow and Groznyy.

Although Dudayev's calculation on the support of "all the Chechen people" is overestimated many times over, nevertheless, with his fanatics and his loyal entourage he is capable of opening the "blood gates" if a real threat of his removal arises.

The Interim Council's statement on the deposition of the Dudayev dictatorship has not generated any hullabaloo in Chechnya itself. Groznyy is calm. But rather more servicemen from government formations are patrolling the streets of the capital.

A statement by Ayub Satuyev, Chechen minister of internal affairs, on the terrible photographs from Chechnya shown on television the other day during the news conference given by the the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was commenting on the results of the operation to neutralize the terrorists in Mineralnyye Vody, was published yesterday. The photographs depicted headless corpses and the heads of, allegedly, Chechens who had previously helped the Russian special services in the capture of terrorists on the republic's territory. "Sickening lies causing a feeling of revulsion," was what the Chechen minister called these comments. According to him, the headless corpses were discovered 14 June, following the elimination by government forces of a gang that was terrorizing the population. Those who were killed were members of the gang. According to the

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Chechen minister's version, these were casualties of an internal clan dispute, a blood feud. Satuyev noted: The photographs were taken at night.

Two Opposition Regiments Formed

MK0408074994 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Aug 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Opposition is Forming an Army"]

[Text] Two regiments of the Chechen Army loyal to the opposition are now being formed in the republic's Nadterechnyy Rayon, most of the population of which back President Dudayev's opponents. The regiments now have five armored personnel carriers, sources close to the Temporary Council of Chechnya have reported.

N. Caucasus Leaders Blame Destablization on Chechnya

LD0408101194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0944 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 4 (ITAR-TASS)—The leaders of Russia's north Caucasian republics and territories "share the anxiety" expressed in the Russian Government's recent statement on Chechnya, which describes Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's policy as "the main destabilising factor" in the region.

"His policy is destabilising the situation not only in the Chechen republic but in the entire north Caucasian region," the leaders of north Caucasian republics, territories and regions said in an address adopted at the congress of highlanders in Nalchik and received by ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

The address stresses that "traditions and customs of the Caucasian highlanders are being violated and mistrust in representatives of other Caucasian people is being instigated".

"The image of a highlander as an aggressor interested in unleashing ethnic enmity and strife" is being fostered in the minds of Russian citizens," the address said.

The leaders of north Caucasian republics, territories and regions called for the restoration of normal relations between Chechnya and Russia and expressed readiness to "assist in every way to the settlement of the conflict (inside Chechnya)".

"We believe that the republic's multi-national population will display wisdom and tolerance characteristic of the Caucasian peoples in solving the present crisis," the address said.

Chechen Official Challenges Reports on Decapitations

LD0408073794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] The minister of internal affairs of the Chechen Republic has refuted reports in the Russian mass media about the murder and decapitation of militiamen who helped to disarm terrorists. The initial version, the minister said, was the murder of three persons from the group of Ruslan Labazanov. Their heads were found on 14 July on Khrushchev Square. After this, leaflets started being circulated with photographs. The law enforcement bodies have drawn the conclusion that only the one who decapitated the corpses could have photographed them. In the opinion of the minister of internal affairs, the murder could have been committed by mercenaries working for the Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, reports the ANI agency.

Khasbulatov Urges Free Elections in Chechnya

LD0308172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Former chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, who comes from Chechnya, is pressing for free elections under international observation in the break-away republic.

Khasbulatov said he believed that the elections should take place within two months of the fall of the Dudayev regime when the Chechen people take control of their own territory.

Khasbulatov sent a statement to Interfax stressing the importance of preventing bloodshed during the resolution of the conflict. He said the Chechen people would not tolerate armed occupation.

Khasbulatov protested the preparations for occupation of Chechnya which, he believes, are underway. He urged the Russian, Caucasian and world communities to prevent a "second Karabakh or second Balkan crisis" in the North Caucuses before it is too late.

Khasbulatov said that all avenues were open for a peaceful settlement in Chechnya and said he was willing to contribute himself to the process. Khasbulatov called on all parties concerned, including the Russian authorities, to assist him.

Implications of Alleged Chechen SS-20's Eyed

MM0308154794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Aug 94 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Article by Aleksandr Yemelyanenkov and Vyacheslav Kocherov: "Could SS-20 Missiles Become the Decisive Argument in the Protracted Dispute Between Russia and Chechnya?"]

[Text] When the official memorandum, drawn up in a single copy for a report "upstairs," reached its destination, those who read it might have thought it was some kind of phantom. How else can you regard the news of the appearance of two intermediate-range missiles in Chechnya?

The first thing that comes to mind is—where did they come from? After all, under the 8 December 1987 treaty

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between the USSR and the United States, all missiles in this class were destroyed, along with their launchers....

Our information: The Soviet SS-20 (RSD-10) missile system began to enter the armory in 1977. The missile itself was equipped with a solid-fuel engine, had high mobility, and could destroy targets at a range of 5-10,000 km. It had a multiple [front] section with three high-precision nuclear warheads of 300 kilotons each. The launcher was a six-axled tractor or a railroad flatcar. SS-20 missile systems were based in Russia, Belorussia [Belarus], and Ukraine. Under observation by a special international commission, they were destroyed by means of launching them (from the Northern testing range to the Transbaykal) and by blowing them up (at the Kapustin Yar testing range in the North Caucasus District).

Cautious soundings carried out by us among specialists involved with the problem of the appearance of SS-20's in Chechnya produced an almost 100-percent identity of views—the report on the missiles was most likely a "canard." There have been no end of these recently....

But we could not so easily shrug aside this news, which we had received from a confidential source who, for understandable reasons, did not wish to be named in the press.

The problem of "Chechnya and missiles" was "highlighted" in the Russian media nearly a year ago. On 9 September last year, the "Vesti" program, citing a news agency, reported that an SS-20 missile was displayed in a parade in Groznyy. Ten days later MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI carried an item on the same topic, under the heading "But If It's Not a Dummy...."

So then what? Did anyone in those organs that are charged with safeguarding the peaceful sleep of Russian people prick up their ears? Nothing of the kind, as it transpired. The Foreign Intelligence Service replied that this question is not their province. We called the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service]. They helpfully advised us to go to military counterintelligence. They, in turn, made out that this was the first they had heard about missiles in Chechnya....

A really sensational report, which in any other country would instantly have become front-page news for the entire writing and filming fraternity, failed to provoke, in Russia, either questions or the surprise that is only natural in such a case.

Admittedly, that is unless you count two commentaries in MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI. According to one version, Dudayev was simply bluffing, and what was displayed was not missiles, only the transportation and launching containers. People who have had direct dealings with this kind of combat hardware thought differently. They did not rule out the possibility that in the context of the uncontrolled relocation of all kinds of weapons across the territory of the former USSR, some missiles could have ended up in Chechnya.

This is indirectly confirmed by the fact that the former Transcaucasus Military District had both tactical and operational-tactical missiles in its armory. It could very well be the case that what was displayed at the Groznyy parade was missiles, only not SS-20's, but another class.

Our information: The hasty withdrawal of Russian Army subunits and units from the Chechen Republic was accompanied by the loss of a large quantity of military equipment and arms. It is known that by the beginning of 1993 the Groznyy authorities had in their possession more than 40,000 firearms, 30 antiaircraft missile complexes, and more than 100 tanks, infantry combat vehicles, and armored carriers. Add to that 600 Grad-type multiple rocket launchers, more than 200 aircraft, and (please note!) TWO LUNA-3 OPERATIONAL-TACTICAL MISSILE LAUNCHERS complete with three loader-transporters.

In the fall of 1992 one of us had the opportunity to see with our own eyes what was being done at places Russian Army units were stationed after their withdrawal from Chechnya. Dozens of dismantled trucks and armored personnel carriers with flat tires lying helpless on an unguarded section of a Groznyy military camp. Large-caliber grenade launchers dumped in a pile, like firewood, under a canopy, and brand-new twin air-defense guns strung out along a sagging fence.... Even at that time the Groznyy militia was starting to grab all this shooting "technology."

But things which had fallen off the back of a convoy of hastily withdrawn Russian troops were manifestly not enough to arm a Chechen national army. And the president-general made no secret of what he wanted.

Dzhokhar Dudayev, 1992, cited verbatim: "Chechnya has never been Russia, and Chechens have never considered themselves Russians. Destroying or developing Russia is a matter for the Russians themselves....

"We will never accept all the armed forces and all the nuclear weapons being handed over to Russia. Or the nuclear weapons being shared among only the strong republics. We are against that. Nuclear weapons must be for either everybody or nobody....

"We are prepared for any physical clash with Russia. Our people are prepared. The whole of the Caucasus will follow us...."

If you read these statements you won't see anything strange in the appearance of medium-range missiles at a Groznyy parade.

In terms of getting into power and getting people to take notice of you, tanks and guns, if you follow the logic of the military man, are the prime means. An even more reliable means would be a nuclear bomb. Or a pair of missiles....

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A year back any claims by Dzhokhar Dudayev to Chechnya sovereignty were summarily rejected by the Kremlin and the White House. Nobody even wanted to talk to him. Not every Russian newspaper would even call him president. Moscow demanded the repeal of acts contravening the Russian Constitution and the holding of elections for legitimate authorities in Chechnya.

Then suddenly there was an unexpected hint, then another—officials in President Yeltsin's entourage and the Federal Assembly leadership talked about a readiness to enter into negotiations with Groznyy, to which they would not have previously agreed on any pretext.

What is the explanation for the turnaround? In any event there is a strange coincidence with the appearance of the confidential memorandum on two SS-20 missiles in Chechnya's possession. It is practically impossible to believe anything in this situation. No matter which official we approached for a comment, our interlocutors resolutely ducked the question. Could it be that Groznyy has acquired an "argument" which Moscow was not expecting and which it has been decided not to acknowledge in public?

You involuntarily wonder about analogies with other regions where similar "arguments" could make themselves felt. And not even because of some people's political ambitions but simply because of the elementary lack of supervision of nuclear arsenals across the expanses of the former USSR.

Our information: Only last year Channel 1 television viewers watched journalists with a video camera get unobstructed onto the territory of an air defense division in the Moscow region and swig a quick "snifter" right next to an S-300 missile. And their Perm colleagues came across an SS-24 rail-mobile strategic missile complex abandoned on the track. The next incident was when a regular soldier born in the North Caucasus shot a sentry, seized a combat vehicle from a strategic missile complex guard on the outskirts of Barnaul, and held onto it for several hours.

But might these fears be groundless? For example, could the soldier who seized the combat vehicle really have caused a world-scale incident, as some newspapers attempted to claim? Or let's put the question another way. Say Groznyy does have nuclear-armed missiles. Would they be able to launch them from there? Or would they merely blow themselves sky-high, transforming Chechnya into a more terrifying zone than Chernobyl?

This is the view of former SS-20 division commander Viktor Volkov:

"You can't use a missile of this kind autonomously. The launch procedure requires several commands received from multiple independent sources. I know at least seven stages of various kinds of blocking mechanism, but even I don't know how many there are altogether. Surmounting these barriers would be beyond an amateur...."

It might be possible to close the subject at this point, but one involuntarily recalls a 1969 incident at a Far East Air Defense Forces unit when comparative amateurs—soldiers who for some reason had taken a dislike to their new division commander—somehow managed to set fire to an S-75 SAM missile with the aid of a bucket of solar oil and a duffle coat. And the thing took off, can you imagine, although its sustainer engine was fortunately switched off and no great damage was done....

That's what soliders can do with a bucket of solar oil and a duffle coat when they want to embarrass their commander. But in some republics—and Chechnya is no exception—there could quite easily be experts in missile technology and nuclear weapons who have not been found a fitting place in the Russian Army.

Around 100 people in Chechnya have already taken an accelerated flight training course, and Turkey is training a further several dozen professional military pilots for Groznyy. As we know, the aircraft for them exist. As do two airfields in full working order. Furthermore, we would recall, there have never been problems with the draft in Chechnya. There has been a tradition of service in the elite branches of the armed forces here, in the evident belief that a time might come when the tiny Caucasian republic might need its own armed forces.

There is a persistent view that Chechya in its present situation is a kind of "green corridor" via which weapons and combat equipment can transit its southern neighbors to the permanently smoldering regions of the Near and Middle East. And nobody will give a guarantee that this will not be the destination (unless they are there already!) of the very missiles which the Soviet Union used to display to the world during Red Square parades and which Dzhokhar Dudayev displayed in the Chechen capital last fall.

But these guarantees are demanded of Russia, as the legal successor of the USSR, by the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear technologies. How is their proliferation among the sovereign fragments of the former USSR and to neighboring states to be prevented? How is the temptation to play his card in the interregional squabbles between the members of the unfriendly Commonwealth to be averted?

Academician Georgiy Arbatov commented on the situation at our request:

"This problem worries me a lot. We are being unjustifiably slow in destroying our surplus nuclear weapons, thereby creating the soil for their theft and various kinds of speculation involving them. I believe that the prime need is to expedite the destruction of intermediate-range missiles and tactical weapons in accordance with international treaties. Centralized storage zones should also be created—possibly in restricted areas where there are the corresponding conditions for this. Reliable protection of such places is indisputably necessary. And, finally, our legislative bodies must be asked to expedite

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the adoption of laws stipulating severe punishment for the theft and concealment of nuclear materials and equally severe liability for the deliberate concealment of informatiom concerning the unauthorized appearance of weapons of mass destruction anywhere...."

There is only one thing to possibly add to that: The president must receive direct any information, even as yet unverified, containing even the slightest hint of a threat to Russia's security. It would be nice to believe that's the ways things are. In any event Naina Iosifovna Yeltsina, the president's wife, claims that members of his family "have never yet managed to tell Boris Nikolayevich news he didn't already know."

Let's hope that our story of the possible appearance of terrifying weapons in Chechnya will not prove to be one the president hasn't had time to learn about yet....

Russia, Bashkortostan Sign Treaty

LD0308214394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1148 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 3 August—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Bashkortostan President Murtaza Rakhimov signed a treaty here today "On Demarcating Objects of Jurisdiction and the Mutual Delegating of Powers Between the State Authorities of the Russian Federation and the State Authorities of the Republic of Bashkortostan".

According to the treaty, Bashkortostan, being a full constituent part of the Russian Federation, is a sovereign state within the Federation, and on its own territory it possesses all state authority outside the Russian Federation's remit and the powers handed over to Russia by Bashkortostan. The territory and status of Baskortostan cannot be changed without Russia's consent, and the republic has its own Constitution and laws. Relations between the sides are determined by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Constitution of Bashkortostan, the Federation Treaty, and other treaties and agreements.

According to the treaty, republican development programs, the budget, and ownership of land and natural resources come under the jurisdiction of Bashkortostan. In addition, the republic itself tackles such issues as the creation of a system of its own legislation and the safeguarding of legality, law and order, public safety and legal proceedings. The handling of international and foreign economic links, the establishment of relations with foreign states, and the conclusion of international treaties and agreements also come within Bashkortostan's remit.

The observance of international norms regarding human and civil rights and liberties and ethnic minority rights come under the joint jurisdiction of the sides. Defense of sovereignty and territorial integrity; the coordination of laws; citizenship; the coordination of international and foreign economic links; budgetary, financial, tax, monetary, credit, and price policies; and a number of other matters will also be tackled jointly.

Russia adopts and amends the Russian Federation Constitution and federal laws, determines the federation system and territory of the Russian Federation, and establishes the principles of federal policy, federal programs in various spheres, the legal foundations for a single market, and the regulation of finances and customs. Russia conducts foreign policy and foreign economic relations; decides matters of war, peace, defense, and security; and defends the state borders.

Treaty Recognizes Sovereignty

MK0408075494 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Aug 94 p 1

[Radik Batyrshin report in the "Russian Federation" column: "Yeltsin and Rakhimov Have Come to Terms. Both Sides Are Happy with the Document Adopted"]

[Text] Yesterday Boris Yeltsin and Bashkortostan President Murtaza Rakhimov signed a treaty on separating the subjects of jurisdiction and on mutual delegation of powers between Moscow and Ufa. This document became the third treaty between Moscow and a former autonomous region. Tatarstan, which finally obtained the status of a state associated with the Russian Federation, was followed by Kabardino-Balkaria, and at last Bashkortostan's turn came. Addressing an official ceremony, Boris Yeltsin said that "one of the leading republics in the Russian Federation—Bashkortostan—is making a major step toward consolidating the country's unity and developing a genuine federation." The Russian president said that "we are moving over to fine tuning the federal relations and reaching agreement regarding who is specifically responsible for what." According to Murtaza Rakhimov, the treaty officially formalizes the results of the 25 April 1993 referendum in Bashkiria where the majority of the population favored Bashkortostan's status of a sovereign state as part of the Russian Federation. The Bashkir leader believes that the treaty is a form of coordinating the constitutions of the Russian Federation and the republic of Bashkortostan. He stressed that the document puts an end to attempts to reduce the Russian republics to the level of oblast autonomies. According to the Bashkortostan president, the treaty asserts the independence of the republic's prosecutor's office, the bar, the public notaries, and the legislative and juridical systems: "The boundaries of legal regulation in the republic of Bashkortostan are defined only by its constitution; the main thing is not to break the common legal space in the Russian Federation." Murtaza Rakhimov stressed that the treaty retains the provision of the Bashkortostan constitution that the land, subterranean resources, and natural wealth of the republic are the assets (property) of its multi-ethnic people, and questions of their disposal are decided on the basis of Bashkir legislation and agreements with the

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power bodies of the Russian Federation. According to the Bashkortostan president, the document enshrines Ufa's right to conduct independent foreign political and economic activity not contradicting the interests of the Russian Federation. Furthermore, the sides have come to agreement that the Bashkortostan authorities have the right independently to define general principles of taxation and republic budget revenues.

Therefore, unlike Moscow's treaties with Kabardino-Balkaria and Tatarstan, the document signed yesterday has formalized Bashkortostan's status as a sovereign state. In addition, it recognizes Ufa's right to independent legislation and judicial systems and its exclusive ownership of natural wealth. Another achievement by Ufa is the recognition by the sides of the need to conclude an annual agreement on budget relations. Therefore Murtaza Rakhimov's phrase that "in some respects we have more powers than Tatarstan" was not accidental.

Yeltsin Comments on Treaty

LD0308223494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 3 August—"Bashkortostan, one of the leading Russian republics, is making an important step toward strengthening the unity of the country and developing genuine democracy. This is a significant event for the whole Russian state." Russian President Boris Yeltsin said this today at the signing ceremony of the treaty "On Delimitation of Spheres of Jurisdiction and Mutual Delegation of Powers Between the State Power Bodies of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan."

[passage omitted] Boris Yeltsin said the signing of the treaty and the package of agreements adopted by the governments opened new opportunities for resolving many of Bashkortostan's problems—above all, he said, the problem of unemployment, a growing debt of paying wages in industry, agriculture, construction, education, and public health. At the same time, the president of the Russian Federation assumes that an edict issued by a Russian Federation president on providing aid in stabilizing the economy, developing the social sphere and protecting the environment in the republic provides big opportunities. However, he admitted, one must say straight out: Some of its provisions are not being implemented.

In this connection the president repeated that environmental facilities in the towns of Salavat and Sterlitamak were not being built or modernized. There is a similar situation as regards the commissioning of social sphere facilities and housing. The federal bodies are partly to blame for this but the main initiative in removing all these shortcomings should come from the republic, the president said.

Boris Yeltsin particularly stressed that society in Russia was worried by the increase in crime. "We have adopted the federal programme for combating crime," he said. "I expect Bashkortostan will contribute profoundly to its implementation."

In the opinion of the president of the Russian Federation, the treaty and the package of intergovernment agreements are documents for the long-term. We attach to them our hopes of further reforming the political system, developing the market economy, and strengthening the federal foundations of the Russian statehood.

It will not be easy to implement the signed documents, the president continued. This will require a day-by-day and targeted organizational work from the federal bodies as well as the authorities of the Republic of Bashkortostan. At the same time, Boris Yeltsin said, the treaty is not a dead doctrine but a good foundation for developing a dialogue. "I accept that some provisions of the document provoke a controversial reaction from different political forces in Moscow and Ufa," he said.

Yeltsin on 'Fine-Tuning' Federation Treaty

LD0308144494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Talks between the Russian head of state and a delegation from Bashkortostan were held in the Kremlin today. The delegation was headed by President Murtaza Rakhimov.

A treaty on the demarcation of remits and on the mutual delegation of powers between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan state authorities was signed in the course of the meeting.

The Republic of Bashkortostan is today making an important step toward strengthening the unity of the country and developing genuine federalist principles, said Boris Yeltsin in his introductory remarks prior to the signing.

The Constitution has answers to the most general questions of principle, he emphasized.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] It is necessary to elaborate a mechanism whereby state-wide, regional, state and human interests are made to accord with each other. The elaboration of documents like today's treaty signifies a real progress along this path.

We are going over to a stage of fine-tuning our federal relations. We are reaching agreements on who is specifically responsible for what areas. We are carrying out a clear-cut demarcation of the rights and duties and responsibilities of the federal and republican authorities. [end recording]

The president of Russia said that this would make it significantly easier to avoid the Federation subjects

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rushing headlong into making more and more new laws and also to avoid the federal authorities exercising tutelage over them in all the minute details.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Rim Bakiyev, acting Bashkortostan Prime Minister, signed a number of agreements during the talks.

[Begin Rakhimov recording] We cannot live without each other. The main thing is to preserve these ties, irrespective of who we are—Estonia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, whoever—we must preserve our ties.

The whole world community is drawing closer together, but we are somehow beginning to draw apart from one another, with each rural council, each dwelling becoming sovereign. Well, who gained from that? No one did, but everyone is lost and suffering. Well, what is important is for us to retain our economic ties. [end recording]

Yeltsin's Tour of Siberia Reported

MM0308154194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Aug 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Aleksandr Batygin: "Boris Yeltsin: Siberians Are Strong People; You Can Rely on Them"]

[Excerpts] Krasnoyarsk-Moscow—Boris Yeltsin's latest trip has once again provided convincing evidence that a deskbound style does not suit our president and that his determination and irrepressible nature are by no means waning with the years. [passage omitted]

This style cannot help eliciting respect. The president did not come to Krasnoyarsk for the sake of a propaganda campaign—in terms of ratings he has a sizeable lead—but to listen, look, make decisions, and help the vast region. "What is of more interest to you here—politics or the economy?" he was asked at Yemelyanovo Airport.

"The economy, of course," came the answer. "The political situation here is not so special as to warrant my flying here for that reason alone. Krasnoyarsk Kray is one of the most powerful in Russia. And the problems in various areas are proportional to its clout...."

"I have seen the Swiss and the Italian Alps, but I have never seen beauty like ours in Siberia," the artist Vasiliy Surikov, a native of Krasnoyarsk, wrote. Regrettably, when the president was taken right from the door of the aircraft to Karaulnaya Hill to admire the view of the city he did not pretend but voiced his displeasure at the smog to Valeriy Zubov, head of the kray administration, and Bishop Antoniy of Krasnoyarsk and the Yenisey.

"If you do not overcome the environmental problems," Boris Nikolayevich commented, "do not even dream about holding the Goodwill Games in 2005 [year as published]."

Admittedly the local leadership has put the ball in the president's court. City Mayor Valeriy Pozdnyakov "excused himself" by citing the example of the aluminum plant's successful contract with the Americans to develop clean production. In short, he said, we are doing everything in our power to "improve" the city.

Incidentally, kray "head" V. Zubov later explained that the administration has not set itself the goal of "asking for as much money as possible. The main task was to provide more information about the state of affairs in the kray."

The proud Siberians did not indeed ask for money, but they were extremely hopeful of receiving and did receive it. After Karaulnaya Hill the president set off for the V. Surikov House-Museum without delay for a meeting with the creative intelligentsia, where the writer Astafyev played the role of "general."

The problems of cultural life in the kray were not bypassed either at the prompting of the venerable writer. A decision was adopted on funding (from the federal budget—the bosses here did not object) for two projects linked with the construction of an opera and ballet theater and a literary museum. Yeltsin also backed the ideas of holding a cultural festival for Pacific region countries in the city on the Yenisey.

During the meeting with the intelligentsia, during which they feasted on the famous "Surikov" pie for particularly honored guests and tea from a samovar, the discussion did not only turn to literature and art. People were interested in a most sensitive issue—the material difficulties and position of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic and the pensions increase....

The schedule for the president's multifaceted trip was worked out down to the last minute. One of its main objectives was to continue his acquaintance with the oblasts and krays of Siberia and the Far East and outline regional policy and the program for the region's development.

"It will be based," your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent was told by Leonid Smirnyagin, a member of the Presidential Council, "on such ideas as citizens' well-being, territorial justice, and the integrity of the state—ideas that Boris Yeltsin was voicing back in 1993."

L. Smirnyagin showed me a weighty volume entitled "Russia's Regional Strategy," the specific contents of which it is too early to read out—it has to be discussed by presidential and government circles and the Federal Assembly. Ultimately Siberia is moving on to a new status; its period of "colonial" development is coming to an end.

...In 1628 the town of Krasnyy Yar was founded on the Yenisey to defend Russian settlements against nomad attack. In 1822 Krasnoyarsk won the status of guberniya capital in the Yenisey region. During the Soviet era 70 percent of the inhabitants here worked for the defense

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industry. The creation of conversion production units based on the military-industrial complex is as yet in the embryonic stage.

I brought back a gift from my trip—a videocassette made under license from the German firm BASF at the electrochemical plant in the "numbered city" of Krasnoyarsk-45. Regrettably, the enterprise is earning money for itself and the state not by producing the cassettes but by selling uranium as before.

Boris Yeltsin visited another closed city—Krasnoyarsk-26. Its construction began in very strict secrecy right after the war on the instructions of L. Beriya. During the construction of the underground mining and chemical combine more soil was dug out of the taiga hills than when the Moscow subway was laid.

Military-industrial complex enterprises left without a state order have encountered countless difficulties and, as V. Zubov pointed out, the "nuclear installations on our territory cannot be kept in suspense." Two of the three nuclear reactors producing weapons-grade plutonium at the mining and chemical combine have already been shut down. The third cannot be "disconnected"—after all, the city of 100,000 inhabitants where the combine's workers live would then be left without heating and lighting. Construction has been under way for five years now on a complex to process and store nuclear waste, but around 2 trillion rubles are needed to complete the vast installation. Needless to say, such astronomical amounts of money are not to be found in the kray coffers, and the pressing problems of Krasnoyarsk-26 do indeed go beyond purely regional problems.

After studying the problems of the "closed city" on the spot, the president said:

"We do not need weapons-grade plutonium; we have no intention of stockpiling nuclear weapons."

Before September Yeltsin will be signing an edict on continuing the construction of the complex to recover [vosstanovleniye] spent nuclear fuel. The third reactor will operate through the year 2000 under International Atomic Energy Agency supervision and will then be closed down. Meanwhile a modern thermal nuclear electric power station will be built. Thus, the conversion problem is being tackled consistently, without shying away from it or mouthing fine-sounding, noncommittal phrases. The president repeatedly stressed during conversations with production workers, scientists, and officials that it is essential to preserve in Russia the labor, experience, and unique technological achievements of her national nuclear specialists. For the sake of the state's prestige and its future.

And another point. Yeltsin's trip to hitherto secret installations—a trip seen by everyone, not only in our country—illustrates once again that Russia is open and that its avowed principles of peaceful coexistence and renunciation of the use of force are not empty declarations.

The president also inspected the output of the Krasnoyarsk Combine Plant joint-stock company. He smiled and joked a lot there, probably because things are improving somewhat for the enterprise today. And although wages here (200,000 rubles on average) are lower than at neighboring enterprises—the power generation and aluminum plants—the production line is not at a standstill as it was in January and February. Moreover, the people there have cause to present themselves in a favorable light, as General Director Lev Loginov did with some pride. This is because of the "Kedr" rice harvesting combine, which runs on reinforced rubber tracks. Before the president arrived at the display area Vladimir Mashanov, acting chief designer, told me about the new combine's advantages. It has a wide gripper section so that grain losses are reduced. The Kedr is easy to transport by rail ready-assembled—the cab and the hopper are symmetrically aligned. And the combine is lovely to look at and is not inferior to its Japanese and U.S. counterparts.

Valeriy Yakushevskiy, general director of the "Sibelast" joint-stock company, whose caterpillar tracks adorn the Kedr, explained how his "firm" is developing a relationship with foreign partners by mastering state-of-the-art technologies at home under license and introducing them not only in Krasnoyarsk but also at the other agricultural machine building giant, "Rostselmash."

Boris Nikolayevich obviously liked the Kedr. It is no coincidence that he immediately gave "orders" for the decree to be drafted that we mentioned at the beginning of the article. Admittedly, he did not get into the high cab, although when inspecting the equipment Boris Nikolayevich frequently exclaimed—Oh, I would like to take the wheel!...

The combine plant has also organized production of equipment for private farmers. There are now a total of 5,214 peasant or private farms in the kray. That does not seem bad. However analyze other figures: In the first half-year 365 farms were registered while 175 ceased to exist. Why is that? The president decided to hear the answer first-hand by visiting the farm of Krasnoyarsk private farmer V. Pokhabov in the morning before leaving for Moscow.

Is B. Yeltsin pleased with his tour of Krasnoyarsk Kray? At the quayside in Atamanovo he replied unequivocally:

"I am quite pleased. I am going away in a good frame of mind. Siberians are strong, reliable people; you can rely on them in your work. And Krasnoyarsk Kray as a whole seems to me to be a reflection of Russia. It is a large kray with a large amount of wealth. And its tasks are well-matched."

On landing in Moscow the presidential cortege flew past the Kremlin right to Zavidovo. To take a breather in the fresh air. And then another working trip to the Volga, Kazan, Tolyatti.... No, the desk-bound style is clearly contraindicated for Russia's president.

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Blast in Yekaterinburg Kills One

LD0308153994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] One person died and another was taken to the hospital in grave condition after an explosion in the building of the Uralpromproekt joint-stock company in Yekaterinburg, in the Urals. The Sverdlovsk region police headquarters reports that one of the company's employees found the bomb in a plastic bag on the ground floor of the building and took it to his office on the sixth floor, where the device went off.

The explosion started a fire which was extinguished promptly. One room was damaged and equipment destroyed.

A special police group is investigating the explosion.

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International Affairs

Kuchma Plans To End Ukraine's 'Self-Isolation'

LD0308152594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said he believes that the erroneous policy of the former Ukrainian leadership had put it in self-isolation from Russia and other CIS countries.

Speaking to servicemen of the 43rd Army of Missile Strategic Troops in the city of Pervomaisk (the Nikolayev Region) on Tuesday, Kuchma said he, as the president, regards his task as the overcoming of such negative trends.

Kuchma said he believes that all the disarmament processes in the country must be controlled. He added that Ukraine must defend its vital and strategic interests. "Only then will we be respected," he said.

Kuchma said that during their meeting with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore in Kiev on August 2 he had decisively raised the issue on assistance to Ukraine for its nuclear disarmament. Kuchma said that Ukraine had received only about $6 million out of the $350 million promised by the U.S.A. for Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. "At the same time we have practically disarmed ourselves," Kuchma stressed.

Commenting on the trilateral statement of the Ukrainian, Russian and U.S. presidents on nuclear disarmament, Kuchma said he will not criticize it. He added, however, that he had not welcomed this document when it was signed. Kuchma said that Ukraine must carry out the obligations which it assumed.

Kuchma announced that he had instructed the Defense Ministry not to let foreigners at the launching sites of Ukraine's strategically important nuclear missiles. He said this measure was due to the curiosity of some U.S. businessmen currently examining the possibility for conversion of these military facilities.

On August 3 Kuchma will visit the Odessa and Kherson regions. In the Kherson region he is expected to hold a meeting with the chairmen of the regional and city councils of southern Ukraine.

Moroz: Ukraine Poses No Threat To Stability

LD0308110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev August 3 TASS—"It is now important for the world community to understand that Ukraine should not be regarded as a state posing a potential threat to stability in Europe and the world," Ukrainian parliament chairman Aleksandr Moroz said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today.

"Ukraine is seeking equal partnership with the world community, we do not need assistance in the form of handouts," Moroz said commenting on the results if talks with visiting U.S Vice President Albert Gore, which, according to Moroz, "were held in a constructive manner and covered an extensive spectrum of problems".

"We agreed that relations between Ukraine and the United States must be accorded a priority character", he said. According to the American vice-president, an independent and economically strong Ukraine should become one of the key factors of stability in Europe. Washington will develop relations with Ukraine in this context and assist its integration in the world economy.

According to the Ukrainian parliament chairman, Albert Gore said the United States is expecting Ukraine to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which step would open up to Ukraine "new prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation with European and Western countries".

Along with this, Gore stressed that the world community must develop partnership relations with Kiev instead of making claims which infringe on Ukraine's interests.

Moroz recalled Ukraine's promise to become a non-nuclear state, but said this intention cannot be fulfilled overnight. One should keep in mind the colossal outlays required for the move, Moroz stressed.

According to Moroz, the United States viewed the situation with understanding and the sides agreed that economic assistance must be extended to Ukraine at present with no strings attached.

Accord Signed With Russia on Border Cooperation

LD0308205594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1832 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Odessa— Negotiations between Andrey Nikolayev and Valeriy Hubenko, the commanders in chief of the border troops of Russia and Ukraine, ended on 3 August. An agreement was signed between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on cooperation and interaction on border issues.

Andrey Nikolayev said at a news conference on the same day that "the border between Ukraine and Russia is the border between one nation and two states. This is why border guards' attitude toward it should be nontraditional: The border should unite people instead of separating them. I have in mind the history of our two peoples—the community of cultures and community of interests."

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On instructions of the presidents of Ukraine and Russia at the negotiations they also signed a protocol "On Ukraine's accession to separate documents approved by the council of the commanders of the border troops of CIS member states, adopted in St. Petersburg on 28 July" and a protocol "On forming joint working groups of representatives of the border troops of Ukraine and the Russian Federation for drafting documents on the forms of the border troops' integration." Generals Borys Hrybanov and Ivan Chudnovskiy will head these groups.

Communique Issued After Parliamentary Talks With Russia

WS0408090794 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Jul 94 p 2

["Communique" issued after negotiations between Ukrainian and Russian parliamentary delegations in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] According to a mutual arrangement, in the city of Moscow on 26-27 July, parliamentary delegations from Ukraine and the Russian Federation held negotiations on a wide range of issues concerning the expansion of bilateral relations.

The Ukrainian delegation was headed by Supreme Council Chairman O.O. Moroz, the Russian Federation's delegation—by V.P. Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation's Federal Assembly, and I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation's Federal Assembly.

The Ukrainian side was informed about the activity of Russia's Federal Assembly.

Special attention was paid to discussion of Ukrainian-Russian relations, CIS problems, and internal political developments in both countries.

Both sides confirmed their commitment to the principles of democratic development in Russia and Ukraine.

Desiring to fully embody the will of both nations to live in brotherly friendship and neighborliness, as well as taking into account the primary importance of cooperation between the two sovereign states, both sides confirmed their mutual interest in using interparliamentary dialogue to further bilateral relations between Ukraine and Russia. Guided by the norms of international law and mutual interests, the two sides confirmed their readiness to promote in every possible way the building of special relations based on a equal strategic partnership in all spheres of both states' vital functions, while relying on agreements attained in bilateral relations and within the CIS framework. The sides consider it necessary to state that they deem the CIS to currently be an instrument suiting the purposes of bilateral and multilateral relations between the member states of the CIS, and that Ukraine and Russia are ready to contribute to the enhancement of the efficiency of CIS institutions which were formed to coordinate integration processes within the CIS framework in economic, humanitarian, and other sectors. The delegations consider that it is of the utmost importance to unite efforts for the purpose of worthy celebrations of the 50th anniversary of our joint victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The sides discussed the progress of implementing previously adopted bilateral agreements and agreed to continue work on strengthening their legal basis.

While discussing the issues of economic cooperation, the sides noted the need for its expansion. Special attention was paid to the problem of developing a free-trade regime by coordinating legislation on tariffs, customs, finance, tax, investment, and trade for the creation of customs and currency unions in the future.

Questions of the more effective protection of cross-border, coastal, and interregional trade were thoroughly discussed. The sides agreed to substantially increase interparliamentary contacts, and they agreed to conclude an agreement on interparliamentary cooperation between Ukraine's Supreme Council and the Russian Federation's Federal Assembly, as well as create a joint bilateral commission headed by deputy heads of the highest legislative bodies.

The sides encourage efforts for preparing a comprehensive agreement on friendship, cooperation, and partnership between Ukraine and Russia.

International questions of mutual interests were also discussed. It was deemed necessary to hold preliminary consultations with regard to the adoption of mutually acceptable resolutions on the most important foreign policy issues.

While discussing an initiative by the Russian side to hold a meeting of parliamentarians from the four neighboring countries (Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan) for the purpose of working out possible forms and determining terms for implementing the integration processes, the Ukrainian side showed its interest in this undertaking.

Negotiations were held in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and mutual understanding. It was resolved to continue the practice of holding regular meetings between parliamentary delegations.

[Signed] Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman O.O. Moroz; V.P. Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation's Federal Assembly; I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation's Federal Assembly

Germany To Help Resolve Unemployment Problems

AU0308123994 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine and Germany Are Establishing Cooperation"]

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[Text] Ukraine and Germany are establishing cooperation in the management of the labor sector. An accord on this has been reached between the Ministry of Labor and the [German] Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Protection. Within the framework of the accord, two seminars were held in Kiev in July: "Active Policy With Regard to the Labor Market" and "The Use of Computers in the System of Labor Management." In addition to consultative measures, a model employment bureau is being set up in Kiev's Vatutin district. The bureau will introduce modern organizational and methodological principles into the system of bodies in charge of labor management in Ukraine to help them resolve the problem of unemployment more efficiently.

It is planned to open the bureau next spring. Germany is allocating about 2 million German marks to reform the system of management in the labor sector in Ukraine and for the setting up of the model bureau.

National Affairs

Kuchma Says Country May Face 'Collapse' in Autumn

LD0308225894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2210 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Kherson, 3 Aug—A whole series of decrees on the protection of the national commodity producer will possibly be signed throughout the week. President Leonid Kuchma said this at a conference with the leaders of eight southern oblasts which took place in the city of Kherson. The aim of the conference was to ascertain the state of affairs in the agro-industrial sector of Ukraine's economy and the harvesting campaign.

The president pointed out that the situation is critical and if it is not changed in the near future, the country will face a collapse in the autumn, as the CIA in the United States has forecasted. Ukraine's debt to Russia is $5 billion, including $1.2 billion for this year's supply of gas. The same situation is true of Ukraine's debt to Turkmenistan for the supply of energy sources. At the same time, pointed out Leonid Kuchma, the parliament is making attempts to launch a revision of its previous decisions which had already been fulfilled, instead of engaging in creative activities. There are attempts to set up a new constitutional commission. The establishment of normal, businesslike, mutual partnership relations with CIS countries, Russia first and foremost, is in the forefront. "We should work in one direction instead of moving apart," said the president.

Kuchma Tours Rural Areas, Views Problems

LD0308215394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2021 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kherson August 4 TASS—New type of relations should be introduced in the countryside, so that effective farmers could be free in their actions. Money-losing farms should go through bankruptcy procedures, Ukraine's newly-elected President Leonid Kuchma said on Wednesday, touring agricultural farms of the Komintern district in the Odessa region.

Kuchma visited three regions in southern Ukraine. He held a meeting in the village of Pervomaiskoye, which was attended by the chairman of the Odessa regional council, heads of city, town and district councils and agriculatural bodies. The Ukrainian president noted that at present individual farmers could not produce enough food for the country. It will take a lot of time and funds to create this sector in Ukraine's agriculture.

Speaking about the causes of the current economic crisis, Kuchma pointed to the fact that all countries try to protect their commodity producers, while Ukraine acts in the opposite way. A country cannot live only by importing and exporting raw materials. There is no sense either in importing goods that are made or can be made effectively within the country. The president announced his intention to sign a package of decrees within the next few days with an aim to protect commodity producers.

Another way to revitalize the Ukrainian economy is to improve economic cooperation with Russia, Kuchma noted.

The Ukrainian leader also touched upon the problem of interaction between the legislative and executive branches of government. A country should have only one master, he stressed. Ukraine badly needs a strong executive power. The president believes each region should be ruled by the governor vested with the whole range of executive powers.

On Wednesday afternoon, Kuchma visited the Nikolayev region. A meeting at the state farm Primorye, a training farm of the Nikolayev Agricultural College, was focused on the current drought and measures to minimize its consequences, on state assistance to regions and farms affected by the drought, on reduction of credit interest rates, and on reform of the banking system.

On his way from Nikolayev to Kherson, the president visited agricultural farms in the Belozersk district, met with grain-growers, vegetable-growers, vine-growers and gardeners to speak about their needs and problems. He also held a working meeting in Kherson with representatives of Ukraine's eight southern regions and the Crimean republic. The meeting concentrated on the current needs and prospects for further development of this steppe region.

Promises Subsidies to Odessa Agro-Industry

LD0308191094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Odessa [no date as received]—Following a visit to Pervomaysk in Nikolayev Oblast, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in Odessa on 3 August where he

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met the staff of a bread combine. Viktor Kovalenko, manager of the Elevatorzernoprom joint stock company, briefed Leonid Kuchma on the progress in getting bread. "Odessa Oblast will yield around 1,200,000 tonnes of grain this year," said Viktor Kovalenko. "But only one third of the required 450,000 tonnes for public consumption has been stored so far."

Speaking to the chief executives and agro-industrial experts of the oblast's 26 rayons, Leonid Kuchma assured them that the state would provide Odessa Oblast with a subsidy of 280 billion karbovantsi by 10 August for acquiring livestock forage and paying for fuel. He said at the same time that he was preparing to "sign several decrees on urgent problems of Ukraine's economic development."

At 1200 [0900 GMT] Leonid Kuchma; Agriculture Minister Yuriy Karasyk; Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy; Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the Board of the National Bank; and other officials left for Kherson Oblast where they plan to meet agro-industrial experts and hold the final news conference on the visit.

Kuchma Criticizes Parliamentary Resolution on Privatization

LD0308215194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] President Leonid Kuchma has criticized the parliamentary resolution suspending privatization in key industries.

According to Interfax-Ukraine, at a Wednesday conference with local leaders in Odessa he declared: "I do not accept this resolution. If questions crop up, they should be resolved at once without stopping the process."

Before going on vacation, the Ukrainian parliament on July 20 passed a resolution on improving the privatization mechanism and tightening controls over the process. It suspends purchase contracts and leasing contracts permitting ultimate purchase.

Instead of passing new legislation the parliament has started revising old decisions, Kuchma said.

He stressed that the parliament passed its resolution several days after the departure from Kiev of the IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus. IMF aid to Ukraine depends on the advancement of economic reforms.

Kuchma Asks Security Services to Combat Economic Crime

AU0308112794 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 30 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt from a speech by Ukrainian President L. Kuchma to the personnel of Ukraine's Security Service on 27 July 1994: "To Act Decisively Within the Framework of the Law"]

[Text] I would like to take this opportunity to have a serious conversation about the present economic and sociopolitical situation and about the role of the special services in overcoming the crises in our society.

My first steps as president will be to hold a kind of "inventory"; it is necessary to know precisely where the new leadership's responsibility to the people lies.

I will not frighten you by sinister assessments—you have the most objective information at your disposal.

We have very little time to put into effect decisive and energetic measures for financial stabilization. Unless we put an end to this drift, we are in for a new wave of all-encompassing hyperinflation. A few more months of such a decline in production, which has reached 40 percent monthly—and irreversible processes will start in the industrial sector. Today, we are in any case witnessing the forceful deindustrialization of Ukraine; those few industries that used to function at a world technological level are being ruined. The very fact that the metallurgical and chemical industries account for 80 percent of Ukraine's hard-currency earnings indicates that we are gradually turning into a raw-materials accessory of the world community and into a territory where hazardous industries will be located.

Things are also quite difficult with grain deliveries. For the first time in the last five years, we may be without adequate crops.

Economic difficulties are being further exacerbated by the absence of an efficient system of management of the economy and executive power in general.

The atmosphere of irresponsibility that prevails in the echelons of power, the activity of semi-criminal economic clans, bribe-taking, and corruption, which have become steady attributes of many state institutions, constitute a serious danger to attempts to normalize economic life.

Huge monetary and commodity flows circulate in the shadow economy. This leads to the loss of authority by power structures and endangers our state's independence and economic security.

Certain present-day political realities in Ukraine and certain political tensions are alarming.

I want to assure you that, as president, I will do everything I can to stabilize the crisis in our society, halt the economic disaster, and balance the political situation. An efficient system of executive power will be formed. At present, the appropriate laws are being actively drafted and, in the near future, they will be submitted for the consideration of Ukraine's Supreme Council.

Power will be restored in the country with all its functions and on constitutional principles.

You know which particular problem is dealt with in one of the first presidential edicts. Despite the sanguine

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reports that are flowing from the leadership of law-enforcement agencies, I know that genuine work in this direction is not yet being conducted to any full measure.

I have no intention of transforming the struggle against crime into a political campaign. I realize that time is needed to curb serious criminal groups, especially those in the economic sector. However, those did not come into being yesterday.

Therefore, the work that was conducted in that direction was insufficient.

The president has expressed his will and launched his attack; how about his army?

The first task is to find out why the resources available are not being used. I appreciate that it is inefficient to use the security services in the struggle against pickpockets. It is also humiliating for you. What I mean is economic crime at such a level that it poses a threat to state security in the broad sense of the word—this is your immediate sphere.

The majority of Ukrainian producers do not return the hard currency, thereby ignoring recent resolutions and edicts. Experts believe that up to $15 billion belonging to Ukrainian juridical and physical persons is in circulation abroad. This capital is not invested in our economy. However, the influence of Ukraine's Security Service, even in terms of information, on these processes is, so far, insignificant. It is known to me that the active struggle against crime is being hampered by a number of staff problems, including some corrupt officials in law-enforcement agencies. This is no secret to you or me. At the same time, it is no secret to me that the atmosphere today is healthiest precisely in state security bodies. That is why I sincerely hope that you will intensify your activity in that direction. We will have to provide support for the militia by our staff potential. I want to place a special emphasis on the need to adhere to the law. I will not tolerate any violation of current legislation. There are several clauses in the edict that give rise to genuine attacks on that document. Law-enforcement agencies have asked that these norms be introduced. They will have to prove, by their practical actions, that these clauses were really necessary. Another problem is the protection of our national interests.

It sometimes seems to me that we no longer have any state secrets—either political, military, or pertaining to certain new technologies or industries. We are not going to restore the "iron shield," but we need to protect our state secrets, like any other civilized state.

Third. Ukrainian intelligence, jointly with other subdivisions, must provide Ukraine's leadership, on a stable basis, with information about the real strategic intentions of foreign states with regard to Ukraine.

We must ensure Ukraine's security against the establishment of general economic, technological, or any other dependence.

Fourth. We have no right to allow a civil conflict to take place in Ukraine. If there is violence on religious, social, ethnic, or any other basis, this will be the last nail in the coffin of the Ukrainian economy. Not to mention the political and moral consequences.

I am firmly determined to seek a political compromise. A regionalization of the state's economic and humanitarian policy and rectification of the distortions that took place are of fundamental significance.

With regard to the Crimea. Today, we have all, primarily economic, chances to resolve this problem without resorting to force. In general, the law-enforcement agencies must act to prevent confrontation, not only by being a source of objective and timely information, but also by using other methods stipulated by the law. This particularly applies to extremist groups.

I understand that to fulfill these tasks, we must give Ukraine's Security Service every support in the moral, material, and financial aspects. I promise you such support. Incidentally, I already provided it when I was prime minister. However, you must also remember that the people of Ukraine need to feel that this expenditure will be beneficial for them. This may only be achieved by concrete results of work.

The entire leadership of Ukraine's Security Service, including those from territorial bodies, is here. I appeal to you: Do not wait for any special instructions. Do not bide your time. Act in accordance with the law.

The president will always be with you.

Thank you for your attention.

Joint Stock Company for Defense Conversion Formed

LD0308201494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk—The board of directors at Pripyat research and production corporation decided on 3 August to form Ukraine's largest joint-stock company, Konversiya-Invest [Conversion-Invest] with a company capital of 500 billion karbovantsi. The corporation currently combines over 50 companies with branches and offices in Russia, Estonia, the United States, Germany, Israel, and other countries.

Hryhoriy Holtsman, president of Pripyat corporation, told UNIAN that Konversiya-Invest will invest in military-industrial enterprises whose technical and scientific potential remains untapped. Investments will take the form of new technology, equipment, and foreign raw materials, as well as re-training of personnel in the West. A number of production facilities at defense companies will become the joint-stock company's property. Contracts to this effect have been signed with 20 defense companies in Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Odessa, Donetsk, Kharkov, and other cities. In Dnepropetrovsk, for example, Konversiya-Invest will own 35 percent of the

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local radio plant. Similar contracts will be signed shortly with Dnepropetrovsk machine-building works and Avia-Agregat plant.

According to Hryhoriy Holtsman, agreement has been reached with western investors to involve about $1 million in the Ukrainian defense industry conversion project.

Kuchma Disbands National TV, Radio Council

LD0308170094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Kuchma has disbanded the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting due to it having been created in violation of the Decree On Television and Radio Broadcasting.

In accordance with the presidential decree dated August 1, the decree and the temporary provision on the creation of such a council, which were confirmed by Kuchma's predecessor on June 6, have been cancelled.

The council had been vested with the right to suspend the activity of those television and radio organizations which violate Ukraine's laws and to annul licences for broadcasting. The council was a supra-departmental body subordinate to Ukraine's parliament.

Kuchma's decree says that the decisions adopted by the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting are to be considered invalid.

On June 30 the council deprived the Kiev private television and radio company Gravis of the right to broadcast its programs. The council said that Gravis had granted an opportunity to the group supporting Kuchma, then a candidate to the Ukrainian presidency, to address the nation.

Chernobyl AES Generator Restored to Full Capacity

LD0308193694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Chernobyl [no date as received]—The first generating set at Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] has been increased to the permissible capacity of 750 megawatts after repairs were completed on 2 August. There are no deviations from operational safety standards and limits. The generating set, reconnected to Ukraine's power grid, will produce 17 million kilowatt-hours of electric power daily. The generating set was disconnected at the end of July to remove problems discovered in the thermo-mechanical equipment of turbo-generators Nos. 1 and 2.

Article Sees Increasing 'Moscow Mafia' Presence in Crimea

AU0308142694 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Volodymyr Prytula, MOLOD UKRAYINY special correspondent: "Political Terrorism or the Settlement of Accounts Among the Mafiosi?"]

[Text] Half a year ago, when still a Crimean presidential candidate, Yuriy Meshkov promised that in his first three months in power he would eliminate the local mafia. Five months have already passed since the Crimean presidential elections. What has changed since then?

At present, Yuriy Meshkov spends more time in Switzerland than in the Crimea, and it looks like the mafia never felt more at home on the peninsula than today. Settlements of accounts among the mafiosi have become common. They presently involve not only leaders of criminal organizations, but also local political figures. For example, on 22 July, the head of the Crimean Party of Social Guarantees, Yuriy Tokach, was assassinated with two shots at the porch of his own home. Of course, the murderers were not found, and one may only make guesses as to the reasons for the crime.

On 30 July, Mikhail Korchilava, adviser for economic issues to the Crimean president and an influential Crimean entrepreneur, was also killed with two shots in the "Tavriya" cafe. Experts put Korchilava's name next to those of Ye. Podaniv and V. Bashmakov, who were killed last month by leaders of the criminal world in Sevastopol and Simferopol. Incidentally, M. Korchilava was present at Bashmakov's funeral repast, when persons unknown, in the presence of 1,000 people, shot Podaniv dead. Such company of the Crimean president hardly does him any credit.

In the local entrepreneurs' circles, the upsurge in clashes among the mafiosi is linked to the arrival of the autonomous republic's "Moscow" government. There is talk that the Muscovites brought along the Moscow mafia, which is forcing local clans against one another, although they previously got along quite well. Increasingly often, the name of a Crimean minister, Muscovite V. Minin, is mentioned. However, this is only one version....

According to the Main Administration of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Crimea, an investigation is in progress. However, so far, none of these murder cases has been solved.

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Belarus

New Cabinet, Administration Structure Approved

WS0308115294 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 0700 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Alyaksandr Lukashenka has approved the structure of the Cabinet of Ministers and the presidential administration. According to Leonid Sinitsyn, head of the presidential administration, the presidential control service will be created on the basis of the former Cabinet of Minister's department for economic control. In addition, new bodies are currently being formed: the Legal Service, the Service for Record Keeping [sluzhba spravavodstva], the Department of Information Resources, the Committee for Combating Corruption, the Committee for Liaison with the Countryside [pa rabotse z terytoryyami], and the Committee for Social and Political Information. Work in these areas will be directed by four deputy heads of the presidential administration. Furthermore, the presidential administration will include the former Cabinet of Ministers' economic department and a group of presidential aides. The Presidential Council and the Council of National Security will work in direct contact with the presidential administration.

The structure of the government, according to Sinitsyn, has undergone fundamental changes. All state committees and Cabinet of Ministers' departments has been abolished. In Sinitsyn's opinion, this will allow for improvement over the former system, when branches were controlled not by ministers appointed by the Supreme Soviet, but by department heads nominated by the prime minister. Besides, the abolishment of state committees and departments will allow, in Sinitsyn's opinion, a significant reduction in the number of personnel. The number of ministries, including the KGB, has been reduced to 26.

Lukashenka Views Monetary Unification With Russia

LD0308204194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1501 GMT 3 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Aug—"The question of the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus will be examined in the course of one and a half to two months and then decided during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to the Belarus Republic." An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, president of the Republic of Belarus.

According to him, "today we have not seriously understood this question, but have merely calculated all the work necessary to carry out this unification." Alyaksandr Lukashenka said that the Russian side correctly understands the position of the Republic of Belarus and its desire to examine all the economic advantages of such a unification.

The Belarusian president is convinced that to achieve a really successful unification, the Republic of Belarus needs to break down the level of inflation, to work out its own program, and to show Russia what changes in economic development it has attained. Regarding the question of the re-subordination of the Central Bank of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka noted that "the Russian side understands the position of the Republic of Belarus on the re- subordination of banks, and thus Article 5 of the draft treaty would as it were be lifted out, as a result of which there would be no violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus."

Comments on Debt Repayment

LD0308194894

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT on 3 August carries a report by Sergey Dorenko on the "Details" program on the Russian-Belarusian talks held in Moscow on 3 August.

The program carries a video of Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenka saying to journalists: "We established that, as Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin says, there really had not been anyone taking specific responsibility in each area, for each agreement, for each instruction. Today we found ourselves at the end of our tethers. That is how we found ourselves in debt. Thus, I am sure that we will pay what we owe, and I am pleased that the Russians, their president, and their prime minister did not apply pressure to bring the money tomorrow and so on."

Cautious Approach to Treaty With Russia Urged

WS0308141794 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 30 Jul 94 p 1

[Interview with Syarhey Navumchyk, coordinator of the Belarusian Popular Front opposition in the Supreme Soviet, by Yuras Karmanaw; place and date not given: "Syarhey Navumchyk: 'BNF Took a Constructive Stance With Regard to the New Authorities'"]

[Text] *Not long ago, our newspaper interviewed Zyanon Paznyak [leader of the Belarusian Popular Front—BNF], who did not mince words while speaking of cooperation with the new authorities. Today, our guest is the coordinator of the BNF opposition in the Supreme Council, who has decided to draw in his horns, taking into account the president's latest appeal to the Belarusian people to consolidate:*

[Navumchyk] BNF took a constructive stance with regard to the Belarusian president. In civilized countries, it is customary to not assess the preliminary results of a president's steps until after the first 100 days in office. Lukashenka should have an opportunity to fulfill his promises, and BNF is not going to prevent him from doing that, unless, of course, the Belarusian Constitution is violated.

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[Karmanaw] Does a new treaty on good-neighborly relations with Russia not fall under this category?

[Navumchyk] Such a treaty should unconditionally be concluded. We stand for good-neighborly relations with Russia. The Russian side has prepared a version of the treaty on the establishment of good-neighborly relations between Russia and Belarus, which is supposed to be signed in early August. An analysis, conducted by BNF's shadow cabinet, has revealed that the treaty includes undoubtedly positive provisions. For instance, the article concerning joint actions in combating organized crime, or the one on cooperation in health care.

Certain articles, however, are distressing to us, since they pose a threat to the sovereignty of Belarus. An article of the treaty envisions coordination of economic, financial, credit, customs, and taxation policies with Moscow. This smacks of olden times, and one cannot speak here of any independence. There is also an article that envisions the introduction of dual citizenship on Belarusian territory, providing for Russian citizens living in Belarus legal, property, and in many cases civil rights equal to those of Belarusian citizens. If this article is adopted, the one who will be richer will be "more equal."

[Karmanaw] Nevertheless, the final results of the work on this treaty will depend on the position of those who criticize it, including your position.

[Navumchyk] Parliamentary commissions have recently received the prime minister's program "On Primary Trends of Economic Policy in 1994." It declares transition to a market system, and includes an array of appropriate provisions such as the abolishment of prolongations of credits for insolvent entrepreneurs, the introduction of a transit tax, privatization of 50 percent of capital stock in the trade and services sector, etc. These are painful but essential steps, though we see that this will not be of much benefit to the Belarusian people.

Not our entrepreneurs, but Moscow's, will have the primary and priority right to privatization, since they have been able to cumulate considerable amounts of capital. Article 5 confirms the priority of the agreement on collective security and ignores Belarusian intentions to become a neutral state. This article, if it is adopted in the current form, can bring about a threat that Belarusian citizens will have to defend citizens of other countries outside Belarus' borders.

We have handed over our concrete remarks and proposals to the Belarusian president, the Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, and the Foreign Ministry. Before he signs the text of the treaty, I want to remind Alyaksandr Lukashenka that he swore not to violate the Belarusian Constitution and laws.

Lukashenka Sees 'Leadership' as Key Need

MM0308161194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by Olga Yegorova and Tatyana Korsakova under "From the Horse's Mouth" rubric; place and date not given: "Alyaksandr Lukashenka: 'If Things Are Tough, Let Them Be Tough for Everybody'"]

[Excerpts] A man whose identity has remained unknown to us jumped out of a "Zhiguli" and, with the customary gesture of a servile old campaigner buttoned up a nonexistent jacket—hot as it was—and rushed up to the doors of Government House. His bulky figure was permeated with hope and fear; it was a few minutes after five in the evening. An hour-long interview with the president by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondents had been in progress since 1600. A highly important conference about personnel had been fixed for 1700. The tasty pie of power was being shared out. The people crowded into the president's reception room were shaking with conflicting motions.

Who is this young politician who has enjoyed a meteoric rise from the backwoods to Minsk? A Belorussian [Belarusian] Andropov? A Rutskoy? A Zhirinovskiy? A Govorukhin?

He is his own man. Among the intelligentsia he causes bewilderment to say the least. But in the people he inspires boundless trust.

Let us listen to him... [passage omitted]

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Alyaksandr Hrihoryavich, one of your new ministers, to be precise the recently appointed leader of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said on the radio that a "demanding regime" will begin soon. What do you understand by these words?

[Lukashenka] Why is the country failing? We began to analyze this. It is happening not only for reasons of an objective nature but also as a result of the inactivity of leading personnel from top to bottom, beginning with the government and ending with the enterprise leaders. People have been completely irresponsible as they have counted on more money being printed and given out in the future. No. No one is going to issue money just like that any more. Because my electors—the 80 percent who voted for me—will suffer because of it. People understand everything today and they say to me: Alyaksandr Hrihoryavich, take any measures, even unpopular ones, to establish order in society. If things are tough, let them be tough for everybody. Not just for the grandmas, the students, and the jobless who have been thrown out onto the street.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] As is clear from your election campaign, you are a supporter of state regulation of the economy. However, Belorussia [Belarus] is surrounded by states in which market economies are developing: Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Ukraine.... Doesn't the stance you are taking mean that Belorussia will, like it or not, have to surround itself with a "Great Wall of China"?

[Lukashenka] No. We do not have the strength or the means to surround ourselves with a "Great Wall." First,

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that is impossible from an objective viewpoint. We certainly do not intend to cut ourselves off. In general you know what my position is. I am doubtless a person who has fought for isolation less than others.

The only politician capable of ruling today is one who has a realistic view of what is actually happening. Seeing that not everything in Russia is good, we could take a somewhat different route. Seeing what has happened in Poland, we should analyze what caused their low growth and consider whether we could go the same way. A great deal of time has been wasted. The starting point is completely different. So, when speaking in favor of a normal, civilized route for the economy's development, I actually proposed, among other things, state regulation of those processes. First and foremost, as I said, through personnel policy.

We want to make amendments to the laws so that everybody who is under the president is placed under his authority. Not just the government but the leaders of the oblast executive committees. And the soviets would monitor the activities of all these executive authority structures from top to bottom.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Alyaksandr Hrihoryavich, you have just increased purchase prices for rye and wheat, but bread has remained very cheap. What will happen now?

[Lukashenka] Do you want me to increase the price of bread today? Until I introduce compensation for those with five children, and I see everybody getting half a loaf a day—that is 15 loaves a month, until I can defend the old, the pensioners, the students, and the unemployed, I will not allow the government to increase prices.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Alyaksandr Hrihoryavich, in general every state with a developed market economy does nevertheless exert some kind of influence on that economy. Which country in the West or East is setting the example which most appeals to you?

[Lukashenka] You know, it is difficult to say. We have lost time. At one time we could have acted as the Chinese are doing. I have studied their experience, after all. The authorities were strong there and they prevented corruption. A powerful privatization program went ahead in the presence of these strong authorities. They privatized wisely. Land was leased off. From 7 percent of arable land in the whole of China, they were absolutely able to feed more than a billion. There are, of course, costs. As it is in Russia or here, so too it is there. But they kept the situation in hand and did not lose control. It will be difficult to take this route in Belarus today. Unfortunately, we have already begun to list. I see that there have already been attempts to sabotage the president's decisions. But, you see, today, having full control over the power structures and society as a whole, I can, after all, as you said, beat my fists on the table. That is what the people elected me to do at this time.

Right-Wing Organizations Stage Rally in Minsk

WS0308115494 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 30 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Ales Varykish: "Are Rightists Coming Out From Underground?"]

[Text] Many residents of Minsk, who were on Skaryna Boulevard on the evening of 27 July, were surprised to see approximately 200 people holding torches and white-red-black and black-red-black flags. This action, despite a resolution passed by the Minsk City Executive Committee, was organized by extreme right-wing associations—the Belarusian Party of Freedom [Belaruskaya Partyya Svabody—BPS] and the "Right Revenge" [Pravy Revansh]. (Neither organization has been officially registered).

Following are several statements voiced by participants in this march:

Syarhey Vysotski, BPS: "We do not always agree with the tolerant, moderate Belarusian National Front, and we have therefore organized this action separately. Belarus should serve Belarusians. This event has confirmed that there are people in Belarus who are able to defend it."

Slavamir Adamovich, the "Right Revenge": "We are celebrating a national holiday—Independence Day. Black is the color of right-wing parties. Combined with the national colors, we have created such flags. The torches are used to draw attention."

It must be noted that the militia did not intervene in the action.

People 'Pleased' With Bread Rationing

WS0408090694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] For a long time, the Novopolotsk bakery had been operating normally. But as early as 20 July, due to shortages of wheat flour, the plant reduced the number of rolls it bakes, and almost entirely suspending its production of white bread sold to restricted-access facilities. Residents of Novopolotsk have, naturally, switched over to regular bread.

The situation was only stabilized when ration cards were introduced in the city. Currently, the normal ration is one loaf of bread and one roll per two-member family, two loafs of bread and two rolls for a family of three or four—five or more people receive three loafs of bread and two rolls. In general, people are pleased; at least they do not have to stand in line for hours, as was the case in the first days of the bread crisis. This report come from the RID news agency.

Moldova

Lebed Comments on Possible Removal from Post

LD0308202094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1826 GMT 3 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

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[Text] Moscow, 3 Aug—Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, which is based in the Dniester region, may be removed from his post in connection with a reform of the administrative agencies of that guards formation. "Should I be removed from my post," Aleksandr Lebed, who is in Moscow, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS this evening, "I won't be staying very long in the army." "Evidently," he continued, "this is to somebody's advantage."

According to information which ITAR-TASS has available, there are plans to set up a divisional administration operational group on the basis of the 14th Army. According to information from informed sources which the agency possesses, this decision was announced at an army conference attended by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev.

Officers Threaten Rebellion Over Lebed Dismissal

AU0408105794 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Tiraspol, Moldova, Aug 4 (AFP)—Some 200 Russian officers in a disputed region of Moldova threatened Thursday [4 August] to rebel following the sacking of their commander, officers said.

The officers of the Russian 14th Army agreed during an informal meeting that they "will no longer be subordinate to the Russian Defense Ministry" if their commander, General Alexander Lebed, were removed from his post.

Their warning came after a top Russian general told the officers that Lebed was to be assigned to duty in the reserves, his post "liquidated" and the 14th Army "dissolved" by September 1, the officers said, who declined to be named.

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesman in Moscow said officials were studying the situation in Tiraspol but refused to comment on the warning from the officers there. [passage omitted]

General Eduard Vorobyev, first deputy commander of Russian land forces, informed the officers of the 14th Army on Wednesday of the decision to remove Lebed and to restructure the force.

It currently numbers only around 8,000 men—less than a full division—and Vorobyev said that some of these would be used to set up a new peacekeeping contingent in eastern Moldova.

Lebed had previously said that he would retire if he were deprived of his command.

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Tajikistan

Russia Asked To Continue Peace Efforts in Region

LD0308145394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By TIA-KHOVAR correspondent Abdugafar Kurbonov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 3 TASS—The Tajik Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Russian Embassy in Tajikistan on Wednesday in connection with the Russian Foreign Ministry's statement that Tajik opposition militants had stepped up their activity against the Tajik national army and had been concentrating forces in border districts of Afghanistan.

Tajikistan has taken the statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry with sincere gratefulness, the note said. There are some apprehensions that attempts to escalate violence may have undesirable consequences for further progress in the intra-Tajik dialogue and the return of refugees, and may pose a threat of a repetition of a civil war in Tajikistan.

The note confirmed the Tajik political leadership's resolve to continue, under the U.N. aegis in a constructive key, the intra-Tajik negotiations and sign an agreement with the opposition to cease fire and other hostilities.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry expressed confidence that Russia will continue efforts to facilitate the restoration of peace and stability in Tajikistan.

Two Russian Border Guards Wounded in Attack

LD0308134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 3 Aug—An armored vehicle belonging to the Russian border guards from the 12th border post on the Pamir sector of the Khorog border detachment was shot at, from behind, at around 1540 local time today by an unidentified armed group. Two Russian border guards were wounded, one seriously, as a result of this terrorist act.

Russian border guards from the 12th post of the Khorog border detachment prevented an attempt at by Afghan infiltrators to make an armed crossing of the border into Tajikistan today as well. There were no casualties among the Russian border guards.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Briefs UN Envoys on Afghan Problems

LD0308181694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Islam Karimov said the present situation in Afghanistan "is far from stable and poses a threat to neighboring states, and therefore it should be under permanent United Nations control."

At a meeting with the U.N. secretary general's special envoys Mahmoud Mestiri and Sotirios Mousouris, Karimov reaffirmed Uzbekistan's pledge not to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The conflict there must be resolved through diplomacy, since "the events of the last few years have proved the uselessness of the military means (of dealing with it)," he said.

Karimov expressed approval of the results of a recent conference in Herat, where President Burhanoddin Rabbani, guerrilla commanders and regional governors tried to draw up principles for the organization of future government in the country and prepare a national assembly scheduled for this October.

Mestiri and Mousouris expressed satisfaction with the position of the president of Uzbekistan, the country which, they said, is "today the most powerful state in Central Asia."

Karimov Meets With Diplomats, Journalists

LD0408082994 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov met with representatives of diplomatic missions in Tashkent, representatives of the Uzbek mass media, and foreign journalists. The meeting touched on the progress of reforms in Uzbekistan and our country's domestic and foreign policies.

Islam Karimov said that Uzbekistan, taking its own path to development, is seriously implementing reforms which are based on world experience and national characteristics. The recent past has shown the correctness of our chosen path. The present stability and harmony between the peoples are our greatest achievements.

Islam Karimov familiarized those present with the progress of privatization and the measures taken to fight crime and to strengthen the national currency. The leader of Uzbekistan spoke about our country's increasing international prestige and the increasing number of diplomatic missions abroad. Uzbekistan recently opened embassies in France, Austria, Pakistan, and other countries. The opening of missions in Great Britain and in the European Union is now being examined. The joining of Uzbekistan to the NATO peace activities is an important event.

Islam Karimov spoke in detail on the steps taken toward economic union in Central Asia. The Uzbek president also expressed his views on developments in Tajikistan and Afghanistan. He noted his recent talks on this issue with the UN special representatives, noting that talks are the only way of establishing peace and calm in both countries.

Islam Karimov answered in detail the many questions put by the diplomats and journalists on domestic and foreign policy.

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Georgia

Ioselani Assails Abkhaz Atrocities Against Georgians

LD0308203394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Here is a statement from Jaba Ioseliani, head of the Georgian delegation at the talks on a conflict settlement in Abkhazia:

The international community has finally succeeded in its efforts to give momentum to the deadlocked peace process in Abkhazia. The peacekeeping operation which is being carried out by Russian armed forces is aimed at restoring long-awaited peace to that troubled land.

However, the Abkhaz side is using any means to try to delay the implementation of the key issue of a peace settlement—the return of refugees to their homes. It is trying to present humanitarian issues as political problems. Moreover, it is undermining the peace process by saying that talks on the refugees can only be resumed after the Georgian troops withdraw from the Kodori Gorge.

Article Four of the agreement of 13 May 1994 [as heard] on a cease-fire and the disengagement of forces directly calls for the following:

Under the supervision of representatives of CIS peacekeeping forces and UN observers and with the involvement of the parties, the troops of the Republic of Georgia in the Kodori Gorge are to be withdrawn to their deployment places beyond the borders of Abkhazia. At the same time, peacekeeping forces and UN observers are to carry out regular patrolling of the Kodori Gorge. All voluntary units consisting of persons who have arrived there from outside Abkhazia are to be disbanded and withdrawn.

We are ready to strictly observe all the provisions of this agreement but we can see no similar will on the part of our partners at the talks. Fifty-nine Georgian observers have still not been allowed into Gali rayon. A unified headquarters of peacekeeping forces has not yet been established. Moreover, peacekeepers are stationed along the Enguri river, despite the initial agreement to deploy them in the conflict zone.

According to information we possess, outrageous incidents of human rights abuse are still widespread in Abkhazia, especially in Gali rayon. Georgian refugees who have spontaneously returned to Abkhazia's Gali rayon are being persecuted and terrorized with the aim of forcing them to leave their homes yet again.

For example, in the village of Saberio, militants attacked the Matkava family. They tried to rape the mother. When she resisted, the bandits killed the woman in front of her small children.

In the town of Gali, Gela Kvaratskhelia was shot dead, while his wife, who is of Abkhaz nationality, and their young daughters were expelled from the rayon.

In the village of Anoria on 16 July, Mtarchi village residents Murman Benia and Otar Samuchia were tortured and then burned to death.

In the village of Dikhazurga on 24 July, millitants massacred the Belianov family of five.

Unfortunately, there have been many similar incidents.

Taking into account the existing situation, we state that if the situation concerning the return of refugees does not fundamentally improve in August and if they are not guaranteed a safe and dignified return to their homes, we deem senseless the resumption of the Geneva talks on Abkhazia's political status. Peaceful settlement in Abkhazia can only become irreversible if all negotiating sides display good will.

[Signed] Jaba Ioseliani, Head of the Georgian delegation at the talks on a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia.

Patrolling of Kodor Gorge To Begin 8 Aug

LD0308183394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A SAKINFORMI [Georgian Information Agency, GIA] correspondent has been told by the information center for the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict that the peacekeeping forces's headquarters of Georgian observers hosted a weekly quadripartite meeting on 3 August. These meetings used to be held in Gali.

The Georgian side was represented by Major General Guram Nikolaishvili, first deputy defense minister and deputy commander of the united peacekeeping forces; Colonel Lazhvart Bolkvadze; Edisher Chargazia, governor of the town of Zugdidi and Zugdidi Rayon; and (Iuri Guguchia), deputy chairman of the Georgian energy department. The United Nations was represented by Gen. John Hvidegaard, head of the UN observer mission in Georgia. The Russian peacekeeping forces were represented by Col. Yuriy Kozlov, chief of staff of the united peacekeeping forces. The Abkhaz side was represented by (Col. Zegan Mamrba).

During the meeting Gen. Guram Nikolaishvili expressed the Georgian side's displeasure at the nonfulfillment of certain clauses of the 14 May quadripartite agreement and at the one-sided orientation on the part of the peacekeeping forces and UN representatives.

For example: Georgian observers have not been allowed into Gali Rayon;

There is still no organized patrolling of the Kodori Gorge by the united peacekeeping forces and UN observers;

Non-Abkhaz militants who arrived in Abkhazia during the conflict have not been withdrawn. They have joined Abkhaz military units and have been registered as citizens of Abkhazia; and

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Mine-clearing in Gali Rayon has been suspended.

Yuriy Kozlov, chief of staff of the united peacekeeping forces, said that the peacekeeping forces would set up a base in the village of Lata in the Kodori Gorge by 8 August. The base would be staffed with peacekeepers deployed in Gali Rayon, who would constantly patrol the Kodori Gorge. [passage omitted]

Military, Irregulars Remain in Kodor Gorge

LD0308174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 3 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 3 Aug—Up to 700 Georgian military and some 100 irregulars not subordinated to the Georgian military command are staying on in the Abkhazian Kodori gorge, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned at the Abkhazian information and press ministry. In addition to that, according to the republic's defense ministry, the Georgian armed formations in Kodori Gorge are being remanned, and ammunition and food are being airlifted to the area where they are stationed.

In the meantime, the command of the CIS peacemaking forces is conducting talks with the Georgian side regarding the withdrawal of the above formations from Kodori gorge. According to an Abkhazian source, Georgian Deputy Defense Minister Nikolashvili has accused Major General Yakushev, commander of the CIS peacemaking troops, of putting pressure on the Georgian side.

Parliament To Discuss Shevardnadze's Dismissal

LD0308125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] An emergency session of Georgian parliament during which the opposition intends to raise the issue of dismissing Eduard Shevardnadze as the Head of State and the parliament's Chairman is expected to take place on August 11.

The decision on calling the emergency session was made by the chairmen of the parliamentary commissions on Tuesday, the press center of the Georgian parliament told Interfax.

However, there has been no official announcement on calling the parliamentary session.

"If we are deceived once again we will call for political actions across all of Georgia," leader of the opposition National-Democratic Party of Georgia Irakly Tsereteli told Interfax. Tsereteli recently ended his 22-day-long political hunger strike.

Tsereteli said that the opposition had collected the required number of deputy signatures for calling the session.

A leader of the United Republican Party of Georgia, Nodar Natadze, (who is also quite radical in his statements) said he doubted that the emergency session of the parliament will take place. "The parliamentary majority (which backs Shevardnadze - IF) will certainly not allow it," Natadze said in an interview with Interfax.

Natadze blamed the authorities for having in fact "forced the dissolution of parliament before the end of September with a single purpose—not to lay themselves open to criticism for their policy of capitulation."

Party Leader Favors Change of President

LD0408104094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Irakli Tsereteli, the leader of the Georgian National Independence Party and parliamentary deputy, stated in an interview to journalists that the main actions of the radical opposition are being planned for September. According to him, this could go as far as barricades. The news and information agency reports that the National Independece Party demands that Shevardnadze should resign. In the event of the resignation of the head of state, in the opinion of the party leader, Georgia will be run by the parliamentary presidium until new elections.

Irakli Tsereteli sees Akaki Asatiani, chairman of the Union of Georgian Traditionalists, parliamentary deputy, and former chairman of the Supreme Soviet in Zviadist times [reference to former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia], as the head of the country.

As for Mr. Shevardnadze, the leader of the National Independence Party advises him to return to his native settlement of Mamati and write his memoirs.

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Estonia

Social Democrats Welcome Withdrawal Pact

WS0308125294 Tallinn BNS in English 1154 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] TALLINN, Aug 02, BNS - The Estonian Social Democratic Party (ESDP) views the Estonian-Russian agreements signed in Moscow July 26 as a step further in the development of the two countries' relations, and expresses satisfaction with the agreement to pull the Russian troops out of Estonia by Aug. 31.

The said agreement is important to Estonia from the view of historical justice, and necessary for further economic development and integration with Europe.

The ESDP thinks the accords will lead to better understanding between the two countries and increase Estonia's international credibility. The Social Democrats hope the signed agreements will presently lead to ratification of other accords formulated, but unsigned by Estonia and Russia. The ESDP leadership is convinced that the Estonian Government will firmly base its future decisions on security considerations of the country.

The Social Democrats' leadership condemns the negative critique of the recent agreements as based on internal political intrigues, and the confusion it has caused both in and outside Estonia. The party holds the opinion that contradictions which may arise in interpreting some single clauses of the agreement are resolvable according to international traditions and procedures.

Centrists Say Paldiski Pact Not To Solve Troop Problem

WS0308123994 Tallinn BNS in English 1011 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] TALLINN, Aug 3, BNS - The Estonian Center Party holds the opinion that agreement on liquidating the Russian Army base in the Estonian town Paldiski is no legal solution to the problem of Russian troops still in Estonia. The Center Party expressed these views in a press release forwarded to BNS today.

"Instead of bringing about relax and satisfaction, the agreements have intensified strains between political factions in Estonia, and reduced the citizens' trust in the politicians' ability to defend their country's interests," the party statement says. Written agreement on the troops' pullout and the legal condition of Russian military pensioners in Estonia was mainly in Russia's interest, the centrists claim. "It was obvious that Estonia's president and foreign minister were not free in their decisions," the press release continues.

The Centrists say these constraints could be seen in the unprepared departure of the Estonian delegation to Moscow, and in the agreement texts' as "obvious mistakes, passages contradictory to Estonian laws, and laying the main part of obligations concerning Russian war veterans on Estonia." Though the agreements prescribed signing both a Russian and an Estonian-language text copy, only the Russian variant has been signed, they add. "The accords were signed solely in the presence of the two presidents and foreign ministers, completely ignoring the rest of Estonia's delegation," the Center Party claims.

The Centrists had moved already in the spring 1994 that the delegation be strengthened and the talks be transferred to a "broader basis". "Unfortunately the suggestion went unnoticed and now we are facing the results of the rush," says the release.

"Post-agreement praises by Estonian officials do not reflect the reality. The numerous foreign spectators have mostly noted concessions on the Estonian side," the statement continues. The consequences of the compromises and legal mistakes are yet to be felt, warn the Centrists. "The said agreements do not belong to the best achievements of the Estonian diplomats," the Centrists' statement concludes.

'More Young People' Request Russian Citizenship

WS0308124194 Tallinn BNS in English 1011 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] TALLINN, Aug 03, BNS—The Russian consul in Narva Gennadiy Yefimov says over 14,00 Russian citizens have been registered in Narva to date.

"In June alone, more than 900 people took Russian citizenship in Narva," Yefimov told BNS. More and more young people are applying for Russian citizenship, he remarked. "Even some ethnic Estonians have applied for it, but these cases are few," Yefimov added. "We have never agitated anyone to take the Russian Federation citizenship," said Yefimov. Whether to be a citizen of Estonia or Russia has to remain everyone's personal choice, he stressed.

There are two Estonian districts in the Narva consulate service area: the East Virumaa, and the West Virumaa district. Over 16,000 Russian citizens live in this territory.

Latvia

UK's Hogg Salutes Riga's Foreign Policy Achievements

LD0308165694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The United Kingdom welcomes the formation of Latvia's relations with western countries and Russia, journalists were told at a news conference today by Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign affairs at the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom.

Among the welcome steps in relations with western countries, Hogg mentioned the free trade agreement

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between Latvia and the European Union that is to take effect beginning in January next year, Latvia's admission to the NATO Partnership for Peace program, and Latvia's admission to the Western European Union with associate member status. The United Kingdom also salutes the conclusion of the Latvian-Russian Treaty on the withdrawal of the Russian Army, the settling of the issue of the Skrunda radar station, and the adoption of the citizenship law. [passage omitted]

Birkavs Reviews Government's First Year

LD0308224194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Today ends the first year since the present Latvian Government adopted its first resolution. As Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs noted in this connection in an interview with Latvian radio, it could be called a year of laying new foundations. Birkavs believes that the most has (?happened) in foreign policy, because that is a question of national security. The prime minister expressed dissatisfaction, however, with the development of the internal policy. Although a certain degree of macroeconomic stability had been achieved, the State Revenue Service has been formed to collect taxation, and the civil service was formed and the Privatization Agency is working.

Nevertheless, the government has not managed to solve many complex problems. Birkavs emphasized that the new government is independent of (?what is created). It ought to deal today with such problems as these: crime, industry, agriculture, teachers, and medicine.

Unemployment Rate Increases to 6.5 Percent

WS0308125694 Tallinn BNS in English 1154 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] RIGA, Aug 3, BNS— The Latvian State Employment Service reports that by August 2, 96,580 people were looking for a job in Latvia, and it makes 6.5 percent of all economically active residents. 86,180 of all the job seekers are registered as unemployed, but 34,023 people are looking for a job continuously.

If compared to July, the rate of registered unemployment has increased, and, by July 1, it equalled 6.4 percent.

The rate of registered unemployment has increased also in Riga. By August 2, 18,055 residents were looking for a job, and it makes 2.8 percent of all able-bodied Riga residents. In return, by July 1, 2.6 percent of all able-bodied Riga residents were looking for a job.

'Ransacking' of Russian Space Center Reported

WS0408073194 Riga DIENA in Latvian 23 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Janis Trops: "Ransacking of the Space Communication Center in Ventspils Has Begun"]

[Text] Ventspils, 22 Jul—It is foreseen that by the end of this week the last remnants of the Russian Army—personnel of the "Zvaigznite" Space Communication Center [kosmisko sakaru centrs]—will leave the district of Ventspils. As of Wednesday [20 July] afternoon, however, the local district authorities had not been informed if the military facility in Ance will be taken over and guarded by anyone. As DIENA has already reported, dozens of military and civilian facilities are situated on the 200-hectare "Zvaigznite" site. Among them, there is a parabolic antenna for space surveillance, one of only a few in the world, measuring 32- meters in diameter.

A businessman, who did not want his name mentioned, told DIENA that the ransacking of "Zvaigznite," which had begun in secret some time ago, is now taking place on a large scale. The mass media, DIENA among them, have already warned many times about such a possibility. The government has also been informed by local authorities in Ventspils and Ance.

"For the time being, the demolition is not being done openly, since high-ranking officers of the Russian Army are still at the site. The lower-ranking soldiers, however, are managing to sell almost anything that can be hauled away by truck: hydraulics, electric cables, tiles, all kinds of machine parts, metal pipes, windows, doors, boards and so forth," said an anonymous businessman. "I myself have purchased many items for my company, at little cost." He was convinced that if the site is not guarded for at least a few days after the Russian Army's departure, it will be completely robbed of everything.

"I think that the 1,000-ton parabolic antenna, which contains a lot of duraluminium, will not survive either. Then, there would be no sense in the government's decision to permit Latvian scientists to use the antenna with Russian and Western companies as part of a joint venture," stated Dainis Valdmanis, chairman of the district council.

As DIENA has already reported, Ventspils district authorities have refused to take over and protect the facility, because the expected costs would exceed 4,000-5,000 lats per month. The district authority does not have such means at its disposal.

Professor Edgars Bervalds from the Latvian Academy of Sciences, who visited Ventspils on Thursday, told DIENA that scientists are preparing to assume control over the site on 22 July, notwithstanding the fact that they have not yet received an official order from the government to do so. The government has also not provided any funds for the protection of the facility. According to Bervalds, other financial sources are being sought to hire local guards for at least a month.

Imants Plavins, commander of 46th Ventspils National Guard battalion, confirmed to DIENA that the selling of various metal structures and other equipment to unknown companies has been going on recently, both day and night. Until now, the National Guard has had no legal bases to halt the thefts.

On Friday, a "Zvaigznite" commission for transferring the facility met to discuss the situation. In the meantime, National Guard units in Ance have accepted responsibility for protecting the facility without payment.

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